

Biography for singer/songwriter Michael Gaither

To write songs that have a point, it helps to have lived a little. Fortunately for Michael Gaither, who continues to assume a very lifelike posture, there's a fair amount of living he can draw from.

Like his tune "Jack of All Trades" says, he's done a bit of everything: journalist, corporate trainer, even a stint as a joke writer for Jay Leno. All roads meandered around and eventually led back to writing.



His debut CD, the 2006 release "Spotted Mule and Other Tales," is an Americana mix of folk, bluegrass, and a little gospel. He favors songs with stories, tales of the day-to-day life: Big cars. Bad drivers. A baby's first steps. And, well, even mules

(Okay, so maybe you don't see a mule everyday, but you write where the muse takes you. Sometimes she has four legs and her dad was a donkey.)

Michael's song "Entertaining an Angel" was one of 20 winning entries in the Indie Artists Alliance songwriting contest for the "Songwriters and Storytellers" compilation in May. (www.indieartistsalliance.com)

Besides performing his own material, Michael runs a monthly open mic and songwriters night at the Wooden Nickel Bar and Grill in Watsonville where other writers can try out new songs or polish older ones. He has also organized, promoted, and played at small local festivals, including the annual "Vintner's Festival Weekend" at Roudon-Smith Winery in Scotts Valley and "November-fest" at Pacific Crest Apiaries in Watsonville, California.

Michael produces and hosts "Songs and Stories" a bi-monthly songwriting podcast which features stories behind his songs and interviews with other songwriters. "Songs and Stories" can be heard on his web site at www.michaelgaither.com, in iTunes (it's a free subscription) and evenings on Grateful Dread Radio, a Baltimore-based Internet station carried by the Live365 network. (www.gratefuldread.net)

Here's what some folks have said about Michael's work:

- ❑ "Michael and his band gave us a priceless night we will never forget."
- Marky Starks, Canyon Acoustic Society House Concerts
- ❑ "We have had the great pleasure of having Michael play at our facility for four years now. Our guests love to sit back, sip wine, and enjoy the music that he and his band put together. They play music with lyrics that are both fun and entertaining for people of all ages."
- Annette Hunt, Roudon-Smith Winery
- ❑ "Michael is a writer with a keen eye for detail and a gentle sense of humor."
- Larry Kelly, Maverick Country (UK)
- ❑ "I have often thought that the hardest songs to write concern everyday life. Michael Gaither is a singing storyteller in the style of Tom T. Hall and Roger Miller with a heaping dash of Lyle Lovett in the mix."
- Uncleshag, The Longtown Sound Podcast / WLSO FM
- ❑ "A brilliant debut CD from Michael Gaither. A fine blend of folk, bluegrass, alternative country and Americana in its purest sense. Aside from the strong songwriting ability and Slaid Cleaves-style vocals, Michael surrounds himself with very strong and multi-talented musicians."
- Jeff Scammon - Wild West Radio/KVMR FM, Nevada City
- ❑ Album of the Week for May 21 2007: Michael Gaither, "Spotted Mule and Other Tales"
- Eddie O'Strange Town & Country Radio (New Zealand)

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