

## **Steve and Ruth Smith Bio**

(275 words)

Musical duo *Steve and Ruth Smith*, from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, play a creative mix of Acoustic Americana music with Celtic and Appalachian roots, featuring hammered and Appalachian mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, and guitar. Their music combines the richness of centuries old Appalachian and Celtic musical traditions along with their heartwarming original music about mountain life and rural Appalachian values.

Known for her sensitive, expressive style on the hammered dulcimer, *Dirty Linen Folk & World Music Magazine* says, "Ruth Smith's touch on the hammered dulcimer is absolutely magical, with exquisite phrasing, highlighting the range of the instrument especially on her own pieces." *Dulcimer Players News* says Ruth's playing is "Lush and expressive . . . memorable, heart-felt."

Steve, an ASCAP award-winning songwriter, provides fingerstyle guitar, old-time banjo, and vocals to the duo. *Dulcimer Players News* says, "Steve is a master storyteller and the perfect vocalist to convey the meaning of his lyrics. His songs stand out for their imagery and melodic strength . . . on par with John Denver's songs." Ukulele is another of Steve's instruments, having played professionally in Hawaii for 15 years.

Steve and Ruth are former recipients of the "Americana Instrumental Group of the Year" award by the Appalachian Cultural Music Association. They have been featured several times on the PBS TV series *Song of the Mountains*, NPR's *All Songs Considered* and *Thistle & Shamrock*, in North Carolina's *Our State Magazine*, and in *Dulcimer Players News Magazine*.

Steve and Ruth's newest CD, *A Good Life*, features both original vocal and instrumental music. They are also popular workshop instructors, teaching and performing at festivals and folk schools nationwide.

[www.steveandruth.com](http://www.steveandruth.com)

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