

# DANNY SCHMIDT

singer/songwriter - austin, tx



Danny was born and raised in Austin, TX. After three years (and more than enough) of college, he ran off and joined a commune. Two communes, actually. One in the Ozark Mountains of Southern Missouri for a year, and then onto one in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for about four years. Somewhere in there, Danny found love -- and damn-near simultaneously found music. And he began writing songs like they were necessary.

So from 1996 on, Danny wrote for love and for longing. And in 1999, he settled (for a bit) in Charlottesville, VA and started sharing his songs in public. That year, he released his first recording, an album entitled, *Live at the Prism Coffeehouse*, an intimate and young collection of innocent songs.

The musical nest in Charlottesville was a full one and a warm one, full of talented chirping close-knit company, and Danny's writing flourished and nourished there. In 2001, he released his second collection of recordings, entitled *Enjoying the Fall*. And in 2003, he released his third collection, *Make Right the Time*.

"HE IS HANDS DOWN ONE OF THE BEST LIVING MUSICIAN/POETS THAT I AM AWARE OF." - BOB THIELE, NASHVILLE PRODUCER

The songs had evolved to become more and more outward reflections on the world, and less and less inward meditations -- and out into the world went Danny with them. In 2003 he moved back to his childhood home in Austin, TX.

A health crisis put everything on hold for about a year, but Danny came back strong, and the music came back inspired, and in 2005 a new collection of songs was released, entitled *Parables & Primes*, taking on mystical overtones and a sort of magical-realism reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, or Aesop.

2005 saw Danny's music spread far and wide, with tours up and down the east coast and west coast, as well as tours of Alaska, the UK, Italy, The Netherlands, France, and Italy -- meeting with unanimous critical approval all along the road.

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MP3s, Live Video Footage, Current Schedule  
and full downloadable presskit materials



# DANNY SCHMIDT

some musical description



Danny's a songwriter's songwriter -- with a literacy and complexity, and an underlying humanity, rare in this age of sound bite attention span marketeering. His tunes are wire frames draped with sheets of poetry. They're not your typical Texas singer/songwriter colloquial polaroid trail diaries. And they'd make lousy beer commercials.

He has some of the qualities of the greats, though -- from Townes Van Zandt's ageless and understated sincerity, to Dylan's topical relevance and wry sharp eye for the allusively obvious, to Dave Carter's quiet spiritual assurity and sense that each song was plucked whole from a tree more than labored through, line-by-line with pen and ink. And it all leaves you with that Leonard Cohen after-taste, that there's something here worth studying as much as listening to.

Those aren't holistic comparisons, just commonalities and contextual descriptions. Cause more than any particular shared virtue, Danny has a quality common to all these preeminent writers: he has his own unique voice. He doesn't sound like any of those guys at all, really. He doesn't sound like anybody you've heard yet. Truly.

*"EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MAN IS GENTLE, EXCEPT HIS CAPACITY FOR INSIGHT, WHICH IS CRUSHING."* - JEFFREY FOUCAULT, SONGWRITER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Stylistally and musically, Danny's songs range from deeply-rooted Appalachian mountain gospel to haunted English balladry, from syncopated Piedmont country blues to vagabond 60's protest folk-stumpery.

He performs solo, just his voice and his guitar. And all his records live up to a strict writer's aesthetic: let the songs themselves stand out front, and well lit. There are sparse backdrops of harmony vocals, strings, and accordion -- and a little touch of this and a tiny pinch of that -- all tastefully placed and painted for the benefit of the songs.

Take the time to sit and listen when you get the chance. It's the kind of music you'll want to envelop yourself in at 2am, after a couple drinks, a little loose and strangely attuned, and with the lyrics on your lap so you can follow along, line by line and turn by turn.



## artists

Here's a list of some of the artists that Danny has shared the stage with, or opened for:

Leon Russell	Susan Werner
Fred Eaglesmith	James Keelaghan
Billy Joe Shaver	Bill Staines
Eric Taylor	Chuck Brodsky
David Olney	Bob Schneider
Kinky Friedman	Jon Dee Graham
Chris Smither	Janis Ian
Teri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines	

## radio

Here's a list of some of the better known radio stations where Danny has done in-studio visits:

WUMB (Boston, MA)  
WFUV (Bronx, NY)  
KGSR (Austin, TX)  
KUT (Austin, TX)  
WDIY (Bethlehem, PA)  
WMPG (Portland, ME)  
WUSC (Columbia, SC)  
WTJU (Charlottesville, VA)  
WNRN (Charlottesville, VA)  
Whole Wheat Radio (Talkeetna, AK)  
KDVS (Davis, CA)

## venues

Here's a list of some of the better known venues where Danny has performed:

Cactus Cafe (Austin, TX)  
Saxon Pub (Austin, TX)  
Antone's (Austin, TX)  
Poor David's Pub (Dallas, TX)  
McGonigal's Mucky Duck (Houston, TX)  
Tractor Tavern (Seattle, WA)  
Starr Hill Music Hall (Charlottesville, VA)  
Prism Coffeehouse (Charlottesville, VA)  
Godfrey Daniels (Bethlehem, PA)  
Turning Point (Piermont, NY)  
Iota Club & Cafe (Washington, DC)  
Eddie's Attic (Atlanta, GA)  
Knitting Factory (New York, NY)  
Rudyard Kipling (Louisville, KY)  
Queen City Acoustic (Staunton, VA)  
Plowshare Coffeehouse (Malvern, PA)  
Ashland Coffee & Tea (Ashland, VA)  
Vic's Music Corner (Washington, DC)  
Six String Cafe (Cary, NC)  
Jammin' Java (Washington, DC)  
Andy's (Chestertown, MD)  
Oddfella's Cantina (Floyd, VA)  
Postcrypt Coffeehouse (New York, NY)  
Acoustic Muse (Charlottesville, VA)  
Living Room (New York, NY)  
Court Square Theater (Harrisonburg, VA)  
Colony Cafe (Woodstock, NY)

## press

"I've not felt a performance with this much intensity since I saw Neil Young solo years ago. Nor have I heard songwriting with this much subtlety of craftsmanship since Leonard Cohen. I was completely floored."

- Henry Simmons, from The Filter

"More than a pleasant surprise, [Danny Schmidt] was no less than a revelation to me -- and that's not a word I use lightly."

- Keith Morris, from the Charlottesville Daily Progress

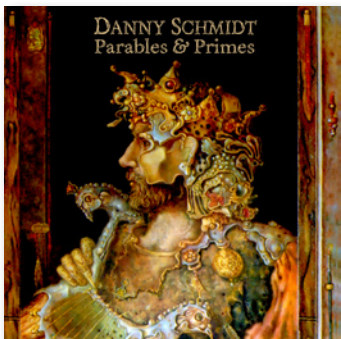
"Danny Schmidt's done it again. One of the country's best singer/songwriters has released yet another masterpiece."

- Les Reynolds, from Indie-Music Magazine

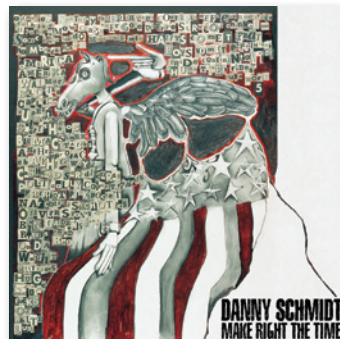
"I have rarely, if ever, been so moved or impressed by an artist as I have by Danny Schmidt. What else can I say? Check him out, no matter what kind of music you like, check him out! I guarantee you, if you don't you are missing one of life's treats."

- Bill Bruedigam, from Radio Sante Fe

## albums



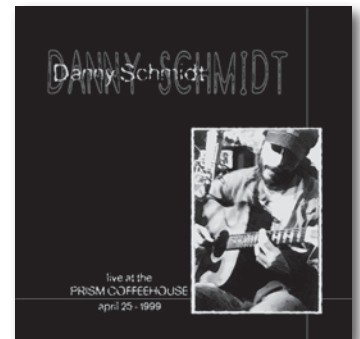
PARABLES & PRIMES / RELEASED 2005



MAKE RIGHT THE TIME / RELEASED 2003



ENJOYING THE FALL / RELEASED 2001



LIVE AT THE PRISM / RELEASED 1999