

# CHARLIE DANIELS BIO

Charlie Daniels is partly Western and partly Southern. His signature “bull rider” hat and belt buckle, his lifestyle on Twin Pines Ranch (a boyhood dream come true), his love of horses, cowboy lore and the heroes of championship rodeo, Western movies, and Louis L’Amour novels, identify him as a Westerner. The son of a lumberjack and a Southerner by birth, his music - rock, country, bluegrass, blues, gospel – is quintessentially Southern.

It hasn’t been so much a style of music, but more the values consistently reflected in several styles that have connected Charlie Daniels with millions of fans. For decades, he has steadfastly refused to label his music as anything other than “CDB music,” music that has been popularized on a variety of radio formats. Like so many great American success stories, the Charlie Daniels saga begins in rural obscurity. Born in 1936 in Wilmington, North Carolina, he was raised on a musical diet that included Pentecostal gospel, local bluegrass bands, and the rhythm & blues and country music emanating respectively from Nashville’s 50,000-watt mega broadcasters WLAC and WSM.

While enroute to California in 1959 the group paused in Texas to record “Jaguar,” an instrumental produced by the Bob Johnston, which was picked up for national distribution by Epic. The two wrote “It Hurts Me,” which became the B-side of a 1964 Presley hit. In 1969, Daniels moved to middle Tennessee to find work as a session guitarist in Nashville. Among his more notable sessions were the Bob Dylan albums of 1969-70 Nashville Skyline, New Morning, and Self Portrait. Daniels produced the Youngbloods albums of 1969-70 Elephant Mountain and Ride the Wind.

Daniels broke through as a record maker, himself, with 1973’s Honey In the Rock and its hit song “Uneasy Rider.” His rebel anthems “Long Haired Country Boy” and “The South’s Gonna Do It” propelled his 1975 collection Fire On the Mountain to multi-Platinum status.

Following stints with Capitol and Kama Sutra, Epic Records signed him to its rock roster in New York in 1976. The contract, reportedly worth \$3 million, was the largest ever given to a Nashville act up to that time.

In the summer of 1979 Daniels rewarded the company’s faith by delivering “The Devil Went Down to Georgia,” which became a Platinum single, topped both country and pop charts, won a Grammy Award, became an international phenomenon, earned three Country Music Association trophies, became a cornerstone of the Urban Cowboy movie soundtrack and propelled Daniel’s Million Mile Reflections album to Triple Platinum sales levels. The CDB was voted as the Academy of Country Music’s Touring Band of the Year Music in both 1980 and 1981. Daniels was the recipient of The ACM’s prestigious Pioneer Award in 1998, and in 1997, Daniels and long time manager, David Corlew started Blue Hat Records.

Daniels' annual Volunteer Jam concerts, world-famous musical extravaganzas that served as a prototype for many of today's annual daylong music marathons, always featured a variety of current stars and heritage artists and are considered by historians as his most impressive contribution to Southern music. Among the artists "Jam Daddy" has hosted at these mega musical samplers are Roy Acuff, Don Henley, Tanya Tucker, Amy Grant, Leon Russell, Billy Ray Cyrus, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, James Brown, Duane Eddy, Pat Boone, The Outlaws, Kris Kristofferson, Dwight Yoakam, Steppenwolf, Bill Monroe, Exile, The Judds, Orleans, Willie Nelson, the Allman Brothers, Link Wray, Ted Nugent, Billy Joel, the Marshall Tucker Band, Solomon Burke, Little Richard, B. B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Eugene Fodor, Woody Herman, and Bobby Jones and the New Life Singers, to name a few.

On Saturday night, January 19th, 2008, Charlie's life long dream became a reality. He was inducted as a full-fledged member into the Grand Ole Opry. *"It is an honor that I can't begin to articulate, there is no way I can express what it means to me", says Daniels. "I pursued my dream in music and by the goodness of God have been able to have a wonderful career, which has spanned fifty÷ years". "I have been blessed with Gold, Platinum and Multiplatinum albums, I have appeared many times on network television, even in moving pictures. I have won multiple awards from The Country Music Association, The Academy of Country Music, The Gospel Music Association and even a Grammy. I have even played on the Grand Ole Opry many times. But I was always on the outside looking in. I was always a guest, never a member."* "Ain't God good"!!!!!!!

In 2009, Charlie Daniels was inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame along with Chet Atkins, Billy Cox, Dick Dale, Victor Feldman, Fred Foster, Paul Riser, and Toto. Dickey Betts, former guitarist for the Allman Brothers Band, hosted Daniels' induction in Nashville. The CDB performed a tight performance that included "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

That same year, Music City awarded Daniels with a star on the Walk of Fame along with other 2009 honorees, Dolly Parton, Kid Rock, Tootsie Bess, and Ernest Tubb at the official unveiling of commemorative sidewalk markers on at the Hall of Fame Park in downtown Nashville.

"I used to say, 'I'm not an outlaw, I'm an outcast,'" says the Grammy Award winning star. "When it gets right down to the nitty gritty, I've just tried to be who I am. I've never followed trends or fads. I couldn't even if I tried. I can't be them; I can't be anybody but me. CDB music is purely American music with something for everyone, At least that's what I've hope for in my 50+ years in music."

###