

A Song Of The Western Wind

All but 1 of the 12 songs on the album *A Song Of The Western Wind* were recorded in the spring of 2010 in about three weeks time (“Springtime Song” was recorded in 1974). Of the 12 songs, there are 6 in all that pre-date the 1974 recordings, including 3 songs (“One Hand Clapping”, “Buckdancer’s Choice”, and “Even Though”) that were never before recorded (however, guitar music from “Buckdancer’s Choice” and “Even Though” was included in the *Rhythm Guitar Catalog* in 2006). Although “Morning Train” was recorded in 1974, and “So Long Colorado” was recorded in 1974 and again in 1989, both were re-recorded in their entirety in 2010. The 5 songs that together with “So Long Colorado” formed the nucleus of this album many years before the album itself was finished are discussed at greater length further along in this introduction. The twelfth song (“A Song Of The Western Wind”) originated as an instrumental in the *Rhythm Guitar Catalog*, and was finished (melody and lyrics) in 2010 while this album was being recorded.

The guitar music for *A Song Of The Western Wind* is generally of a folk, bluegrass, and country-western persuasion, and is more or less evenly divided between flatpick arrangements and fingerstyle/fingerpick arrangements. Alternate tunings are used for 5 of the 12 songs, and there are 6 rhythm guitar duets. There is an unusual degree of emphasis on the 12-string guitar on this album, since 3 of the songs are based on solo 12-string, and 3 others are duets played on 6-string and 12-string. Another noteworthy musical aspect of this album is the fact that 6 of the 12 songs employ 3-part vocal harmony.

The story for *A Song Of The Western Wind* evolved over a rather lengthy period of time. I wrote the guitar arrangement, melody, and title for “Miller,

Dan” in 1976, and I had a good idea of what this important character would be like even then, although I didn’t write the lyrics for this song until 2010. When I wrote “Poor Jamie” (with lyrics) in 1978, I envisioned a music video of the events depicted in the lyrics. This proved to be a rather strange experience, since music videos didn’t even exist at the time (MTV wasn’t launched until a few years later). In 1980 and 1981 I wrote three other songs (guitar and vocal, but no lyrics) with a view toward including them in an album of songs accompanying a story set in the western US around the turn of the 20th century, though again I didn’t finish the lyrics for these songs (“Down This Crooked Trail”, An Ordinary Man”, and “Get Out Of Town”) until 2010 when I was recording the music. The story, which will ultimately be told by way of a novel titled A Song Of The Western Wind, is not yet finalized and written.