

KRISTIN SCOTT BENSON

Kristin Scott Benson grew up in South Carolina, surrounded by a musical family. She started playing mandolin and stepped on stage for the first time at the age of five. After receiving a much-anticipated banjo for Christmas when she was thirteen, Kristin became enthralled with the instrument and spent her teen years studying the playing of all the banjo greats from Earl Scruggs to Bela Fleck.



After graduating from high school, she relocated to Nashville to attend Belmont University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. While a sophomore in college, she joined the Larry Stephenson Band and was featured on the group's recordings, the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited*, and numerous appearances on the Grand Ole Opry and The Nashville Network. After stints with Chris Jones, Sally Jones, and Honi Deaton, she is presently a member of Nashville's Larry Cordle & Lonesome Standard Time.

Kristin has attained a national identity as one of the top bluegrass banjo players on the scene, exhibiting impeccable taste, timing, and tone. With an attentive ear to back-up, she is known and respected as a true band and team player among her peers. With personal cover stories in *Bluegrass Now* and *Banjo Newsletter*, persistent touring, and renowned recording efforts, people are continually becoming more acquainted with this young talent.

Kristin's latest solo release on Pinecastle Records, *Straight Paths*, is a collection of instrumentals that range from traditional approaches to original and new acoustic songs, offering an enjoyable listening experience to most any member of the bluegrass audience. Featuring Jim Hurst, Wayne Benson, Jim Van Cleve, and Mickey Harris, Kristin assembled a fine roster of musicians to produce a unique and impressive album.

As well as regularly touring with Larry Cordle, Kristin also freelances and records, having performed with Laurie Lewis, Josh Williams, Third Tyme Out, Ronnie Reno, Jim Hurst, Roland White, Valerie Smith, Rhonda Vincent, and others.

Kristin plays a 1933 Gibson TB-3 banjo and a 2003 Gibson RB-75. She endorses GHS Strings, AWSI Cases, and Robin Smith of Heartland Guitar & Banjo.