

David Schnauffer

David Schnauffer was born in Hearne, Texas on September 28, 1952. A dulcimer virtuoso, educator, and scholar, he grew up in south Texas, listening to artists such as Bob Wills and Ernest Tubb. As a young adult in the burgeoning "folk rock" scene of Austin, Texas, he found his musical voice the first time he strummed a dulcimer in a music store in Austin, Texas. Leaving college, he sought out dulcimer players and old-time musicians from whom he could learn. He soon began winning contests with the instrument, and left Texas, going to Colorado and West Virginia before finally settling in Nashville.



When Schnauffer arrived in Nashville, his goal was to bring the sweet sound of the Appalachian dulcimer into the music mainstream. His many recordings testify to his success. Schnauffer has recorded with the Judds, Johnny Cash, Michael Martin Murphey, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt, Ann Savoy, Mark Knopfler, Chet Atkins, Dan Seals, Kathy Mattea, Albert Lee, Cyndi Lauper, Sandy Bull, Jack "Cowboy" Clement, Santiago Jimenez Jr., Mark O'Connor, and many others.

The National Dulcimer Champion many times, Schnauffer also showcased his talent and prowess on eight solo recordings, including *Dulcimer Player Deluxe*, *Tennessee Music Box*, and *Uncle Dulcimer*. His albums feature a myriad of musical styles including classical, country, jazz, folk, Celtic, and rock, and have been enhanced by several of the world's most respected pickers including Chet Atkins, Mark O'Connor, Mark Knopfler, and Albert Lee. He also composed a classical concerto for the dulcimer called "Blackberry Winter."

Along with Charley Pride, Bill Monroe, and Norman Blake, Schnauffer was one of four musicians invited to play the 25th wedding anniversary of June and Johnny Cash. Schnauffer served as adjunct associate professor of dulcimer at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music from 1995 to 2006. David Schnauffer died in August, 2006 after a battle with lung cancer.