



For immediate release: January 3, 2007

First comprehensive history of Old Time Revival scene is now available in *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music*.

Winston-Salem, NC --- Stephan T. Wishnevsky, better known as "Wish" has released *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music*. *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music* explores the Old Time music revival that began in the 1960s and continues today, with special emphasis on its development in the mountains of North Carolina and Southern Virginia. Publication of this book fills a long-standing need to document how this influential rural American musical genre was rescued from obscurity by the 1960s counter culture. Until now this modern revival has been largely ignored by popular music historians.

As a participant in the Old Time scene of northwest North Carolina and southern Virginia beginning in 1970, Wishnevsky offers personal insights that no outsider would dare to report. While objectivity is not easily found in *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music*, Wishnevsky's experiences as a musician and luthier during this time provided him with access to numerous notable Old Time Revival personalities. There are over 40 interviews with musicians such as Mike Seeger, Peter Stampfel, Winnie Winston and more.

The book opens with a brief pre-history of the movement and thereafter chronicles the development of the Revival, alternating amongst interviews, festival history and an occasional poem. *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music* captures the mood of the times and the personalities that colored the scene.

Old Time music is a rural form of folk music that evolved from the musical contributions of Anglo and Celtic immigrants and African-American slaves. It is considered a precursor to Bluegrass and Country genres. Characterized in part by heavy use of stringed instruments such as fiddle, banjo and dulcimer, the music is typically shared through live performances at homes and festivals. Interest in Old Time shot up in 2000 with the release of the box office hit *O Brother Where Art Thou*.

Wishnevsky studied instrument-making under David A. Sturgill of Piney Creek, NC and now earns a living making electric bass guitars under the trademark "wishbass.com." He is a published poet, historian, and book critic. In 2006 McFarland & Company published Wishnevsky's history of the influential, yet little known United States General, Courtney Hicks Hodges. *Courtney Hicks Hodges: From Private to Four-Star General in the United States Army* is available from Amazon.com.

For more information about *How the Hippies Ruin't Hillbilly Music* or the companion CD, contact Stephan T. Wishnevsky "Wish" at wishnevs@bellsouth.net or 336-661-9040.

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ISBN: 0-595-42305-1 Dimensions: 6 x 9 x 0.528
Retail Price: \$18.95 (\$25 including shipping)
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Stephan T. Wishnevsky: A Brief Bio

Wishnevsky is 16 days too old to be a baby boomer and is of mixed Redneck and Cossack heritage. He began playing guitar and banjo in 1963. He attended Folk festivals and coffeehouses in the 1960s and was an intense participant in the "Great Folk Scare." A cascade of misadventures led to him move south where he studied musical instrument-making under David A. Sturgill of Piney Creek, NC. This, in turn, required his learning to play Old Time Music, and even more misadventures, adventures and playing a visible role in the String Band Revival of the 1970s and 1980s. Wishnevsky is a published poet, historian, and book critic. He makes his living making electric bass guitars under the trademark "wishbass.com."

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