

## Masters of Bluegrass #17 David Grisman

Grisman grew up in Hackensack, New Jersey. He started his musical career in 1963 as a member of Even Dozen Jug Band. Grisman's first recording was an Electra project with that group that included guitarist Stephan Grossman, singer Maria D'Amato (Maldare) and others. Grisman recorded a Red Allen and Frank Wakefield session for Folkways Records in 1963 but didn't perform with Red Allen and the Kentuckians until 1966. His recorded playing from that period shows a strong unique Monroe-inspired mandolin style. He credits The Kingston Trio for getting him into traditional music and folklorist Ralph Rinzler for shaping those interests.

In 1967, Grisman was in a psychedelic rock group called Earth Opera with Peter Rowan. In 1973, he joined Rowan, Vassar Clements, Jerry Garcia and John Kahn to form the bluegrass group Old and in the Way. In 1974, Grisman, Rowan, Kahn, and Richard Greene joined Bill Keith, Clarence White, and John Guerin in the group Muleskinner. In 1974, Grisman was also in The Great American Music Band. Then in 1975, he started his own band: the David Grisman Quintet.

The Quintet featured a who's-who of well-known acoustic musicians including Tony Rice, Mike Marshall, Mark O'Connor and many others. "Dawg" music, as it was called, was an acoustic string music that owed much to bluegrass and the swing music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grapelli.

Grisman, along with New Grass Revival are generally considered the modern day interpreters of the new bluegrass-influenced fusion sound, sometimes called newgrass. In 1973, Grisman began a musical friendship with Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia. The duo recorded many projects together until Garcia's death in 1995.

Beginning in 1994, Grisman recorded a series of albums entitled Tone Poems that featured himself and notable guitarists playing a variety of restored historically important mandolins and guitars. His Acoustic Disc label has released recordings of many under-recorded greats.