

MICHAEL MONROE GOODMAN

Country music is like breathing to Goodman. It's been part of his life since before he was even born. "My parents knew Bill Monroe for years," Goodman recalls. "They were good friends and they all went to the same church. When I came along they asked him if they could call me Monroe, and Bill was thrilled. We used to go backstage at the Opry with him every weekend. It never seemed surreal until I began writing and playing."

"People have these stereotypes of country music and hillbillies," Goodman observes. "All the clichés, but the truth is more complex. I know, I've lived it. I grew up poor in a small town in Kentucky. That doesn't make us backward, though. We knew about life, maybe more than city people. I'm proud of my home state of Kentucky. You need that strand of where you're from or you don't have an anchor. At its heart, country's a state of mind, not a location."

He's always made country music his priority, ever since playing his first professional gig at the age of 15, on Live at Libby's in Maysville, KY. "I'd

been writing songs for a couple of years by then," Goodman recalls, "and this show had hosted quite a few '90s stars before they were famous. I auditioned on the Friday night, did one song. They liked me and I performed on the radio from there the next night. I did that show a few more times and I knew my heart was set on country music. It was my voice. Right out of high school I joined a band and started really learning my craft."

As the songs on The Flag, the Bible, and Bill Monroe show, he's mastered his craft. This album



is about who I am, the things that are important to me. The Flag, the Bible, and Bill Monroe: I'm proud to be an American, I'm a committed Christian, and Bill Monroe has always been an inspiration. Maybe I'm carrying on those things Nashville's left behind these days. But I think this is real roots country, music that means something."



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