

## **Eric Karlstrom ([www.erickarlstrom.com](http://www.erickarlstrom.com)) (Musical bio)**

(April 12, 2016)

A resident of Crestone, Colorado, Dr. Eric Karlstrom is a former professor of geography who is now pursuing his first love; music. As a singer/songwriter and composer who is equally comfortable singing and playing acoustic guitar, 5-string banjo, and piano, he has self-produced 22 CDs over the past 26 years ([www.erickarlstrom.com](http://www.erickarlstrom.com)). Whereas in the past, he has played with numerous groups and bands, today he prefers to perform as a “one-man-band.” As a singer, he knows hundreds of popular, folk, bluegrass, gospel, and country songs by memory. He can also call on his trusty iPad, which holds lyrics for over 500 songs in these and other styles, including Irish, Spanish, soft rock, and Americana genres. In addition to playing solo instrumentals and/or singing with just his guitar or banjo accompaniment, Karlstrom achieves a full band-sound when using his own back-up rhythm tracks stored on his ipod. The Bose L1 Sound System provides excellent amplification and has inspired his occasional “stage name:” “Eric Karlstrom and the Good Ol’ Country Folk Bluegrass Bose.”

Eric grew up in Virginia and began singing, finger-picking, and writing songs on acoustic guitar when he was 13 years old. Thereafter, he took up 5-string banjo and piano and began composing songs on these instruments as well. While many of his songs were originally written with lyrics, today he prefers to play and perform these pieces as instrumentals. These 100+ instrumental pieces probably comprise the core of his musical contribution, thus far. They are recorded on his three guitar instrumental CDs: 1) Reflections, Volume 1; Solos, 2) Reflections; Volume 2: Solos and Duets\*, and 3) Reflections; Volume 3: Solos and Duets\* (\*-guitar with banjo, mandolin, flute, violin, 2<sup>nd</sup> guitar, and bodhran). His three original solo piano CDs are: 1) The River, 2) The Refuge, and, 3) Wyoming Waltz. And his one solo banjo CD (so far!) is entitled “Stone Mountain Banjo Anthology” and was released in 2015. Other original banjo pieces are featured on various of his other vocal CDs, including “Paradise Divide,” “All God’s Critters,” “The Mountain,” “On the Sea of Life,” etc. (See page 2 and [www.erickarlstrom.com](http://www.erickarlstrom.com)).

Eric has performed at various venues, including bluegrass festivals, restaurant/bars, old folks homes, private parties, and ski areas. His original instrumental pieces, played as solos, are excellent background for quieter restaurants, whereas traditional bluegrass, country, folk, and popular songs, using the combination ipod backup tracks/Bose sound system, work very well for most other venues. The best musical formulae seems to be to mix of these various styles, according to “what works” at a given venue.

Eric believes that, like life itself, musical talent is a gift from the Creator. And like other gifts and talents, musical talent should be developed to the fullest extent and shared as widely as possible with others. It is to this end, that Eric has launched his second, and probably final, career as a musician.

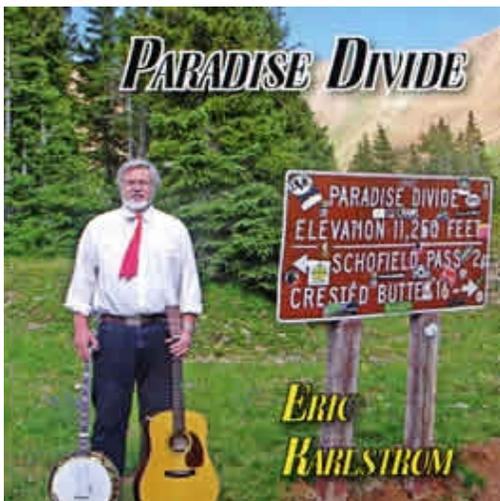
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Following are examples of Eric Karlstrom’s most recent discography. Other CDs and songs can be seen and heard on [www.erickarlstrom.com](http://www.erickarlstrom.com).

1) Stone River Banjo Anthology (2015)



2) Paradise Divide (2014) (A mix of bluegrass vocals and instrumentals).



3) The Refuge (18 original songs for solo piano by Eric Thor Karlstrom) (2015)

