



ABOUT DON

A darkly honest and wry singer/songwriter out of Charleston, South Carolina, Don Merckle's songs are firmly planted among the fertile mixed traditions of American music. He is a workman's poet, capable of delivering a rock and roll growl or a quiet dose of smoky barroom introspection with equal passion.

Don is a veteran of the indie music scene in the Southeast. He founded the popular Appalachian/Irish outfit Loch Ness Johnny in 1998. He co-fronted the rambunctious Alt-Country band American Gun from 2005-2010, and in 2011 he created the jaunty Don Merckle & the Blacksmiths. At the end of 2019 he ended that project to focus more completely on song craft. In his current solo work Don is leaning into more stately and thoughtful singing, a style that highlights the darkly emotional lyrical contours that are the hallmark of his best work.

Don has performed relentlessly across the southeast for over 20 years at clubs and festivals. He has shared stages with acts like Drivin' N Cryin', Lucero, Shooter Jennings, The Avett Brothers, Cracker, and more. His latest work has a sound and feel that ably captures the blend of American roots music and rock and roll at the heart of his songs, all delivered with the kind of effortless roots-rock sweep which has made Jason Isbell and The Avetts into household names.

On his new album, ***Rumor of a Ghost***, Don worked with the producing and recording team of Evan Simmons and Zac Thomas to experiment with new sonic ideas. Don's thoughts about this collaboration? "This is probably the most excited I've ever been about a record I've made. We've explored each song to work individually while simultaneously constructing a through line that binds them together as a whole. Zac and Evan have really helped push the boundaries of what I think people expect from me and I couldn't be prouder of the result."