



Search Gibson Lifestyle

Search

 Comments? Suggestions?
 editor@gibson.com

 Send breaking stories to:
 Breaking.News@gibson.com

LIFESTYLE PRODUCTS HOME

INTERACTIVE LOCATIONS SUPPORT

Table of Contents

[Front Page](#)
[Features](#)
[News](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Contests](#)
[Downloads](#)
[Video](#)
[Product Spotlight](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[Gibson Recommends](#)
[Lessons](#)
[Artists And Events](#)
[Gibson Foundation](#)
[Credits](#)
[Gibson > Lifestyle > Gibson Recommends > Gibson Recommends Michael ...](#)

Gibson Recommends Michael Koppy's *Red River Redux* (Free MP3!)

Ted Drozdowski | 03.04.2008

[Click here to download a free MP3 of Michael Koppy's "A Filled-Out Shirt."](#)

Acoustic guitarist Michael Koppy kept his playing, with its rich, burnished tone and strong melodic backbone, under wraps for a quarter-century. "I've got friends I've known for decades who didn't even know I owned a guitar until I started playing out a few years ago," Koppy says by phone from his L.A. area home.

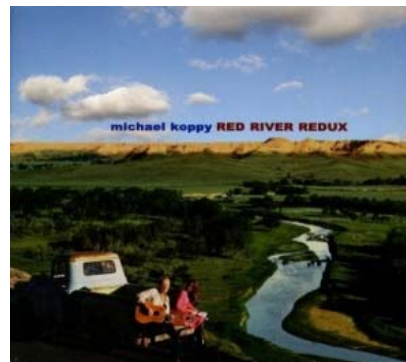
That's all changed with the recent release of Koppy's debut *Red River Redux* on his own Good Track label. The disc is winning him a following on both coasts, where his sound resonates with roots-savvy audiences. And it's an excellent showcase of his maverick instincts.

The disc's 16 songs display his distinctive approach to Travis picking—a style of simultaneous rhythm and melody playing developed by country music guitar legend Merle Travis. Koppy doesn't worry so much about the constant thumb-plucked bass pulse traditional Travis pickers employ. "That can be a crutch sometimes," he opines.

Instead he goes for overall feel, darting away from the beat to craft explosions of melody for the breaks of vocal tunes like "Loose Talk" and simply pouring on the gasoline for instrumentals like "Alabama Jubilee" and a full-tilt version of Skip James's "I'm So Glad," once a staple of Cream's repertoire.

Although Koppy came of age during the psychedelic era, he wields his '61 Gibson Hummingbird and Collings D2H more like Doc Watson or Tampa Red than Clapton or Hendrix. He also tunes his guitar down a whole step to D-G-C-F-A-D. ("Standard tuning feels stiff," Koppy says. "I like to bend strings and not be encumbered.") And until recently—when he and his producer Garrett Soden decided to tackle a version of L.A. hippie-era group Love's "Alone Again Or"—he's stuck to songs from the great American folk songbook.

But with a twist. Koppy's mission is to mine the past of folk, jazz, country, blues and any other styles in his path, searching for attractive old songs that he can make new. He does so by crafting wholesale rearrangements—a



Email this to a Friend



RSS 2.0 feed



digg this



delicious



Stumble Upon



reddit



gambit that transforms Stephen Foster's "Oh, Susanna" into something closer to a rag—and by writing his own lyrics to replace or elaborate on what's already there.

That's what Koppy does on most of his *Red River Redux* tunes, which range from famed country songwriter Jack Clement's ballad "Leavin' on Her Mind" to Belgian pop star Lara Fabian's lost love story "Je T'appartiens" to the traditional cattle drive anthem "Whoopie Ti-Yi-Yo."

Photo Credit: Charles Gary

<< 3/4/08 4:54 PM

Gibson Recommends Stacy Clark *Apples and Oranges* (Free MP3!)

11/20/07 1:32 PM >>

Gibson Recommends Euros Childs *The Miracle Inn* (Free MP3 Download!)

Customer Service 24 hours 7 days a week

Products | Lifestyle | Contests | Careers at Gibson | Contact Us | FAQ

Guitars

Electric Guitars
Acoustic Guitars
Gibson USA
Gibson Custom
Epiphone
Kramer
Steinberger
Tobias
Valley Arts
Maestro
MusicYo.com

Original Acoustics

Mandolins
Banjos
Dobros®
Flatiron
Epiphone Bluegrass
Maestro

Drums

Slingerland

Accessories

Pickups
Strings
Replacement Parts
Care Products
Consumer Electronics
MaGIC

Amplifiers/Processors

Indestructible Amp
Gibson
Epiphone
Electar
Echoplex

Vending Machines

Wurlitzer

Pianos

Grands
Verticals
Digitals
Baldwin Grands
Baldwin Custom Grands
Baldwin Vertical
Howards Grands
Wurlitzer Grands
Hamilton Grands
Hamilton Verticals
Chickering Grands
D. H. Baldwin Vertical
Concert Master

Jukeboxes

Wurlitzer
Classic 2100
Digital Princess
One More Time
One More Time CD
One More Time iPod
Peacock
Princess

Lifestyle

Front Page
Features
News
Contests
Downloads
Videos
Product Spotlight
Gibson Recommends
Clinics
Credits

Artists and Events

Stories
Showroom Blogs
Band Blogs

Free Lessons

Bass Guitar
Blues Guitar
Metal Guitar
Acoustic Guitar
Beginner Jazz Guitar
Funk and R&B Guitar
All Lessons

Gibson Foundation

Make a Donation
Initiatives
Partners
News

Interactive

Gibson Forums
Gibson WIKI

GuitarTown

London
Austin
Nashville

Gibson Ampitheatre

Factory Tours
Memphis Custom
Gibson Acoustic
Gibson USA

Retail Centers

Memphis
Nashville

Dealers

Find a Dealer
Buy Online
International Distributors
Acoustic 5 Star dealers
Gibson Original Dealers
Baldwin Piano Dealers
Wurlitzer Dealers
Become a Dealer

Customer Service

About Us
Contact Us
FAQ
Tech Tips
Serial Numbers
How to Buy a Guitar
Warranty Registration
Warranty Service Information
Careers at Gibson

Repair and Restoration

What We Do
How We Do It
Client List
Repair Stories
Tech Tips
Customer Testimonials
Photo Gallery
FAQ
Contact Us
Download a Brochure
Submit a Request

Copyright 2008 Gibson Guitar Corp. All rights reserved.