

Mike Compton - mandolinist extraordinaire

Mike Compton is one of the best Monroe-style mandolinists performing today. Mentored early on by Bill Monroe himself, he's been a part of the Nashville Bluegrass Band (four albums), and toured as brother-style duo with the likes of David Grier, and recently Joe Newberry. His discography lists his roles as a sideman on far more recordings that can be listed here including not only many bluegrass greats but also others like Sting and Elvis Costello. Recognizable in a crowd for his blue jean overalls, he's also a distinctive player known for his encyclopedic knowledge of Bill Monroe's mandolin songs.

**Talking about Monroe and playing *Old Ebenezer Scrooge*** – Mike Compton

<https://youtu.be/a4OUIYAVYWA?si=D4FRXoMgZeBosRvR>

Lately he's been touring with Joe Newberry, singer, guitar and banjo player, doing some old-time songs and roots music in brother duet style. Here are a few samples of their playing, first a couple of short ones, then if you have the time, a full concert that's not only highly entertaining but also a mandolin tour-de-force. If you play mandolin it's guaranteed that you can pick up some licks and ideas from the longer concert video!

***The Darker the Night, The Better I See*** - Mike Compton and Joe Newberry

<https://youtu.be/pkWHPRgnu8I?si=1-EfEva2MBdFBuKB>

***Squirrel Hunters*** – Mike Compton and Joe Newberry (and Compton NOT in overalls!)

[https://youtu.be/TPndOWoSvII?si=YO\\_8VTZdo3vsjlcX](https://youtu.be/TPndOWoSvII?si=YO_8VTZdo3vsjlcX)

***Tennessee Breakdown*** – Mike Compton and Joe Newberry

<https://youtu.be/Rm6oYM18b6U?si=e61whskAZvtIXaCz>

***Cherry River Line*** – Mike Compton and Joe Newberry

<https://youtu.be/uk5mPiKGn50?si=vvPeoDbBDkGQy2LX>

***Full concert in 2021*** – Mike Compton and Joe Newberry

<https://youtu.be/t62VYtY47J8?si=hy8KavkUhTwYdWod>

Compton's use of double-stops and rhythmic strums is stellar. He's a generous and talented teacher of mandolin who can be found on youtube, and also at his annual ***Monroe Mandolin Camp***. Here he's teaching double stop technique and then playing *Jenny Lynn*:

***Methodist Preacher*** - Mike Compton solo

<https://youtu.be/byqPzLowW1o?si=5PGLgq55w7cn5PLA>

***Jenny Lynn*** – solo performance from Music City Roots

[https://youtu.be/dyFC7PZ6jil?si=aaavWX3h\\_47mx0Tk](https://youtu.be/dyFC7PZ6jil?si=aaavWX3h_47mx0Tk)

Playing with David Grier and others:

***Wheel Hoss*** – Mike Compton, David Grier, Gabe Witcher, Noam Pikelny

[https://youtu.be/Gmat-82GV3A?si=a\\_hIN\\_YWkLw6aJyq](https://youtu.be/Gmat-82GV3A?si=a_hIN_YWkLw6aJyq)

***Honky Tonk Swing*** – Mike Compton and David Grier from "Climbing the Walls"

<https://youtu.be/Qz-X17WlhIM?si=0psGKWK2pWYk-KV3>

The whole album "Climbing the Walls" is on YouTube and well worth a listen.

And finally a pandemic era show that Compton did online in 2020, "*Live by Request*" where he performs 17 songs, solo on his sofa, singing bluegrass and old-time songs, and playing classic mandolin instrumentals on his Gilchrist mandolin. It's well worth a listen. Don't forget that if you

want to pick up some of Compton's licks, you can slow down YouTube videos using the gear-shaped settings icon at the bottom of the screen.

**Live by Request** - Mike Compton solo

<https://youtu.be/PA7A-IIWSRM?si=oas8xHp4hKLXDo11>

songs include, *Methodist Preacher*, *Sailor's Hornpipe*, *Stoney Lonesome*, *Tennessee Blues*, *Gospel Plow*, *Midnight*, *Try Me One More Time*, and many more.

Check out Compton's website for more info: [mikecompton.net](http://mikecompton.net)