

Penny Ballads

Grant Maloy Smith

ABOUT THE ALBUM

Grant Maloy Smith is a Billboard Top 10-charting American Roots/Country artist. His next album, PENNY BALLADS, will be released on June 20, 2025. It follows his multiple award-winning DUST BOWL: AMERICAN STORIES (2017), APPALACHIA: AMERICAN STORIES (2021), and MISSISSIPPI: AMERICAN STORIES (2024) theme albums, all of which received rave critical reviews. These albums have spent 17 weeks on the Billboard charts, including 11 weeks in the Top 10 of the Americana/Folk album sales charts.

According to Grant, "I've been making American Stories theme albums for ten years, and I always end up with more songs than I can use. I decided to dedicate 2025 to recording these lost songs. Ultimately I decided to divide them into three albums, separated by type. This first album contains the ballads. I play many of these songs in my live shows, and fans are always asking which album they're on. Finally, they will be available!"

A **penny ballad** was a popular, inexpensive printed song sold widely from the 16th through the 19th centuries, especially in England and later in colonial America. Typically printed on a single sheet of paper (a "broadside"), these ballads were sold for a penny or less, making them accessible to a working-class audience. Ballad hawkers—street vendors who sang the verses to attract buyers—distributed news and entertainment. They featured various themes: love and romance, murder and crime, historical events, and compelling stories. See reverse side for a list of the 11 tracks on this album.

Players on the album include ACM-winning pedal steel player **Mike Johnson** (Reba McEntire, Jason Aldean, Carrie Underwood, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard), Grammy® and IBMA winning dobro master **Rob Ickes** (Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice, Alison Krauss, Willie Nelson), fiddle and mandolin player **Steve Stokes** (Alabama, John Michael Montgomery, Rick Springfield), and more.

Grant sang all the vocals, bringing his unmistakable voice to the project. He also played the guitars and keyboards, dulcimer, and bass.

"I love the pace of this ballad album. These songs are close to my heart. I hope my fans enjoy listening to it as much as I have in making it," said Smith.

THE RELEASE

PENNY BALLADS will be released on June 20, 2025. <https://www.grant-maloy-smith.com/albums/pennyballads>

PREVIOUS REVIEWS

"I love Grant's voice. It sits on that ground between Willie Nelson and George Jones, two of the greatest singers of my era, for my money."

~Janis Ian, legendary GRAMMY®-winning recording artist and songwriter



CONTACT

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THE SONGS

1. **But In The Meantime (2:58)**
2. **Your Fire (4:09)**
3. **You Don't Have To Love Me Back (4:35)**
4. **Way Down Low (3:09)**
5. **She Walked (2:47)**
6. **20 Years (4:38)**
7. **I See You (3:24)**
8. **And The Angels Sang Along (3:16)**
9. **Garden On The Moon (3:33)**
10. **Cuts Away (3:44)**
11. **Always A Way (4:01)**

Running Time: 40:14

Suburban Cowboy Records
Catalog Number SCR-2025-01

Produced by Grant Maloy Smith

All songs © (various years) words and music by Grant Maloy Smith except
"I See You" © 2019 Grant Maloy Smith (BMI) and Mike Greenly (ASCAP)

THE PLAYERS

Grant plays guitars, keyboards, dulcimer, bass and sings. Contributors include ACM-winning pedal steel player **Mike Johnson** (Reba McEntire, Jason Aldean, Carrie Underwood, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard), Grammy® and IBMA winning dobro master **Rob Ickes** (Earl Scruggs, Tony Rice, Alison Krauss, Willie Nelson), fiddle and mandolin player **Steve Stokes** (Alabama, John Michael Montgomery, Rick Springfield), award-winning multi-string player Tim Lorsch, and more.

Principle recording was done at Suburban Cowboy Studio in Rhode Island, including including all of Grant's parts and T.C. Samuels on drums. Additional recording was done at Palette Studio in Nashville, specifically the parts played by the guest artists listed above. Those sessions were co-produced and engineered by award-winning producer and Dolby® ATMOS® engineer Jeff Silverman.

PREVIEW THE ALBUM

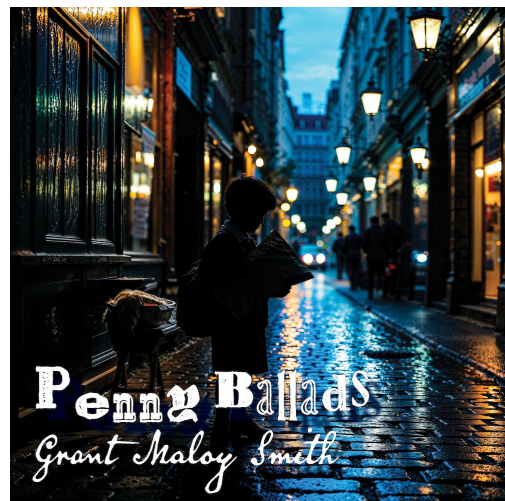
Members of the music press can listen to the album at the unlisted link below. Please do not publish this link:

<https://soundcloud.com/grantmaloysmith/sets/penny-ballads/s-4tO1q1al67s>

Short link:

<https://bit.ly/pennyballads>

Or use the QR code at right.



PREVIOUS REVIEWS

"If you took a few ounces of Willie Nelson and Jimmie Dale Gilmore, mixed them carefully Grant Maloy Smith would appear."

~ John Apice, Americana Highways

"Smith has a penetrating, searing tenor voice that brings his lyrics of everyday Americans vividly to life..."

~ Robert K Oermann, MusicRow magazine

"Grant Maloy Smith's countrified tenor makes the album whole as he relates his stories with poignant effectiveness and comforting warmth..."

~ Joe Ross, Roots Music Report