

L. Don Ohkami:
American and Irish Folk, Country
Blues and Hillbilly Grunge
(Guitar, Banjo, Vocals)



“Who can resist it.... a gifted blues singer plays his banjo passionately and sings ballads of the rogue’s life..... intelligent songs, performed professionally and with joy”
Frankfurter Rundschau

L. Don Ohkami was born on the seventh hour of the seventh day of the seventh month as the seventh of seven sons of the goddess Amaterasu, but was kicked out of the Japanese pantheon for his habit of pronouncing the word “banjo” with an “e” instead of an “a” and for diverse other impositions on local culture. He wandered the world for many years trying to support himself with his guitar and a few molecular dynamics calculations until the guardian angel Hekisuto took pity and brought him to a safe haven in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. There he developed his own style of thrash clawhammer banjo, which has been further refined by travels throughout Germany and Ireland.

There are those who say that L. Don Ohkami is actually the alter ego of Don Lupo from South Carolina via Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Ireland, that his wide ranging knowledge and love of traditional music comes from his roots and his travels, and that his taste for strange, obscure songs is due to his many years in college, community and pirate radio. But what a far-fetched story that is.....

L. Don Ohkami interprets traditional music from the USA and Ireland, country blues classics, cheatin’ and drinkin’ honky-tonk country, and contemporary material you never thought you’d hear on a banjo, always with much love for but never with too much respect for the original sources, true to his motto “save folk music from the folkies”.



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