

ZAN McLeod started his musical career in the early 1970's playing southern rock on his first Rickenbacker guitar. His early forays into the Irish music scene began in 1979, when he and North Carolina singer/songwriter *Mike Cross* visited Nashville. On tour from his home in Chapel Hill, NC, Zan met *Triona NiDhomnaill* of the legendary Bothy Band while recording in Nashville. Their musical chemistry inspired Triona and Zan to form the innovative and groundbreaking band **Touchstone**. For five years they recorded and toured together. **Touchstone's** album *The New Land* won the **NAIRD Award** for best Indie album of 1981. *Jealousy*, Touchstone's second album was well received and both were on the **Green Linnet Label**.

Zan went on to receive many more music industry accolades, including his collaborations on: Grammy winning CD *Celtic Solstice* with Paul Winter; Grammy nominated CD *Journey With The Sun* (Paul Winter and the Earth Band), and *The Long Journey Home* (with the Chieftains).

Zan's self-recorded solo album, *Highland Soul*, won a Washington, DC **WAMMIE Award** in 1995, leading him to pursue a career as a musician and audio engineer. After graduating from the **Omega School of Recording**, he established his own home studio, **Tonehouse Recording**, in Washington, DC.

Along with recording on nearly 150 CDs, Zan also recorded on several film soundtracks including: Edward Burns' *The Brothers McMullen*, Ang Lee's *Ride with the Devil*, Sam Shepard's *Far North*, and James Horner's *Back to Titanic*.

As a respected and experienced workshop leader and instructor, Zan taught for years at the *Augusta Heritage Center's Irish/Celtic Week*, *Boston College's Gaelic Roots Program*, *McDaniel College's Common Ground*, and was a founding member of *Warren Wilson College's The Swannanoa Gathering*. Zan's instructional video, *Learn to Play the Irish Bouzouki* for **Homespun Tapes**, has been a best seller since 2001.

The Maryland State Arts Council awarded Zan **Individual Artist Grants** for musical composition in 2011, 2014, and again in 2017.

Zan lives in Washington, DC with his wife and Siamese cat, Leo. He has two children, Bonnie and Skye McLeod, both residents of North Carolina.