

After all these years

Tifton's Maloy Brothers record CD after 60 years of playing music

By Angie Thompson
angie.thompson@gafnews.com

TIFTON — Two Tifton brothers who have been playing music together for 60 years have now released their compact disc, "Time Will Tell."

The Maloy Brothers, Frank, 74, and Joe, 71, are members of the Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame. Frank plays the violin and Joe plays guitar.

The CD, which highlights the brothers performing such favorites as Gershwin's "Embraceable You" and Irving Berlin's "Always," was recorded in a Tifton friend's living room. The brothers sat in straight back chairs across from one another and played tune after tune straight through with no overdubbing.

Joe said Maryland-based Patuxent Records brought "a truckload of equipment" and the recording was easy.

"We have been playing a lot of these songs together for 60 years. We didn't go through it but one time and it was not difficult," Joe said.

At present, the only way to purchase the CD is over the Internet from Patuxent Records. The brothers have not invested any money to produce the CD and will only make money if it sells.

The pair grew up in rural Milan. Almost everyone in their family played a stringed instrument. The brothers' mother, Clara Jeanette Bullington Maloy, was an accomplished pianist, guitarist, singer and dancer. Their father, Daniel William Franklin Maloy, Sr., was a left-handed fiddler, a singer and a harmonica player.

The boys learned tunes from relatives, touring musicians and radio, where a variety of

music was broadcast in the pre-war era. Friends and relatives would stop by their home and play music. He learned songs such as "One-Eyed Gopher," "Cotton Baggin'," "My Little Girl" and "Arkansas Traveler" from relatives like his Uncle Joe Bullington, a fiddler who "came to live with us."

"I asked him if he would help me learn some tunes that he played. He said, 'I can't show anyone how to play, but if you'll sit and watch me, I'll play a tune as long as you want me to and maybe you can pick it up from that,'" Frank said.

Frank said his uncle would play a tune over and over and by watching him and other fiddlers, he learned to play double stops, how to do the shuffle, how to play backup for vocalists and other techniques.

As young boys, the brothers played in several Georgia bands, entertaining in theaters and at parties and dances in the area. They played a mixture of Southern square dance music and western swing.

Frank bought a copy of M.M. Cole's 1,000 Fiddle Tunes from Sears and Roebuck and was motivated to learn the traditional fiddle tunes contained in the volume. The boys learned to read music from a "U.S. School of Music" correspondence course.

By 1946, the teens were performing over radio station WBHB in Fitzgerald with Charlie Dowdy and the Prairie Boys. Joe, still in school, worked with the band on the weekends. Frank eventually learned to play guitar, mandolin, saxophone and clarinet. Joe added five-string banjo and bass to his repertoire. In 1950, Frank began a 10-year stint playing on television and radio with "Uncle Ned



Contributed photo

COLLECTION OF HITS: Musicians Frank and Joe Maloy of Tifton have recently recorded a compact disc titled 'Time Will Tell.' The duo has been playing music together for 60 years.

and the Hayloft Jamboree" at WMAZ in Macon. Meanwhile, Joe was working with the WMAZ-TV staff band, "The Polka Dots." The brothers then reunited and organized "The Swingmasters," a dance band and played in the Macon area for several years. During the 80s, the two played "beach music" and '50s rock and roll in

the Outer Banks area of North Carolina.

The Maloy brothers then returned to South Georgia and played swing and dance music with the Dave Mercer Band for over 10 years. They recently reorganized under "The Swingmasters" name and perform

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at dances, in churches, weddings and funerals in the area.

For almost 10 years, the duo has played at a fiddler's jamboree at the Georgia Agrirama in Tifton. The event is held annually in April.

"Fiddlers come and play and sing and carry on. We know a lot of musicians and it is a lot of fun to see them," Joe said.

Joe had other careers over the years but Frank has spent his entire life in music, either as a performer, teacher, arranger or transcriber for many bands.

He has transcribed thousands of songs into several large volumes which covers most of America's swing, jazz and pop repertoire. Frank is a contributing editor for The

QUARTER-

ly by the Tennessee Folklore Society. The Summer 1995 edition of the publication was dedicated to him.

Jack Leiderman, who wrote the CD's jacket, said Joe plays in a range of styles from western swing to jazz to Latin rhythms and his guitar work "anticipates Frank's phrasing on the violin.

"This is evidence of the long musical association of this duo. They are truly world-class musicians and now Georgia's best-kept secret is out," Leiderman said.

Wayne W. Daniel's article in The Devil's Box Summer 1995 issue contributed to this story.

To contact reporter Angie Thompson,