

# Interview with Charlie Daniels

By Rachel Andrews Damon, Fryeburg Fair

Charlie Daniels, almost 82 years old, will be warmly welcomed, despite the chilly fall weather expected at Fryeburg Fair this Wednesday night (October 3<sup>rd</sup>). The Charlie Daniels Band will perform the Night Show at the Grandstand at 8 pm.

I got to do a phone interview with the very cool and legendary Charlie Daniels this past Friday from his tour stop in Biloxi, Mississippi. His career has spanned over 60 years, won him a Grammy Award and inductions into the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. He has sold over 20 million records.

RAD – “Where do you live when you’re not on tour?”

CD – “I’m from Tennessee. There’s no other place I’d rather live.”

RAD – “Wikipedia says you’ve been married since 1964. What’s your advice on marriage?”

CD – “My wife, Hazel, and I just celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary. My advice is: find someone you want to wake up to every morning. Don’t rush into anything. Marriage is a very serious undertaking. I think our society, well the way our society has gone in the last few decades, doesn’t take marriage seriously. People try it and if they don’t like it, they divorce.”

RAD – “Do you have children?”

CD – “We have one son. He is 53 years old and works with me. He’s behind the scenes in our music business. He does our technology and many other jobs.”

RAD – “Have you been a musician all your life?”

CD – “Yes. I didn’t start as early as some. I was about 14 or 15 when I first learned chords on the guitar. I’ve played almost every instrument with strings at one point in time but I’ve stuck with the fiddle and guitar.”

RAD – “How many shows do you perform a year?”

CD – “110 this year. We’re already working on next year’s tour with artists Travis Tritt & Alabama. We’ve been doing this for a long time.”

RAD – “Is there anyone else your age doing that kind of energetic tour schedule?”

CD – “Yes Willie. He’s older than me. He’s 83 or 84. (Nelson is 85). Touring, music and performing is what I enjoy. I’m very lucky to make a living doing what I love. Every night I look forward to getting on stage. I love it. It’s pure joy.”



*Charlie Daniels,*

RAD – “What’s your favorite song?”

CD – “I really don’t have any clearcut favorites. Some songs that were not necessarily big hits. I wrote one about growing up in North Carolina and I wrote a couple for my wife. Some you haven’t heard of.”

RAD – “I just bought your book, ‘Never Look at the Empty Seats.’ Can’t wait to read it.”



*The Charlie Daniels, Band, [www.charliedaniels.com](http://www.charliedaniels.com)*

CD – “I hope you like it! It’s a true accounting of my first 80 years of life... I have another book coming out soon called, ‘Let’s All Make This Day Count.’ I write almost every day and have another book in the works.”

RAD – “What do you think this country needs right now?”

CD – “I would love to see this country turn back to God. There’s so much we’ve gotten away from that our nation was founded upon. Morality and decency and caring about other people, that’s how we started out. It’s what they wrote about in The Federalist Papers. Now we have greedy politicians and major media outlets constantly screwing up making for great tv entertainment but horrible public relations. Until this country gets back to God, well I just don’t see us getting it together.”

RAD – “How is your health?”

CD – “My health is good. For 82 I’m doing pretty darn good. Thank the Lord.”

RAD – “We’re very excited to see you in Maine! Have you been to Maine much?”

CD – “We’ve played in every major city and lots of smaller ones. I haven’t spent lots of time in Maine. We’re excited to see you all!”

For more information on Charlie Daniels go to [www.charliedaniels.com](http://www.charliedaniels.com). Check out Fryeburg Fair 2018 at [www.fryeburgfair.org](http://www.fryeburgfair.org).