



JUNE 2010



DIERKS BENTLEY

A country star rediscovers a teenage love affair with bluegrass

DIERKS BENTLEY WAS A 19-YEAR-OLD FROM PHOENIX, Ariz., aiming for a career as a country singer when he walked into Nashville's Station Inn nightclub, famous as the stomping ground to many of the city's finest bluegrass pickers. What he heard there changed his life. "Up to that point I always thought of bluegrass music as being an older generation's genre," he says. "I didn't associate it with being young, cool and hip. But I walked in and saw kids my age tearing away on these instruments and having so much fun playing together. It was like Columbus seeing land—it was a whole other thing I never knew existed."