

Winter 2021 Newsletter/Hickory Ridge Concerts Virtual, February

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all safe and healthy as we hunker down in the cold! Though it's nasty outside, the studio windows are looking particularly festive this season.

I'm delighted to say that being of "that certain age", I've received my first Covid shot last week and am waiting on #2. I am in awe of the medical professionals who are dealing with all of this. Major kudos to all!

Of course, I'm continuing to do live stream performances and have two coming up in the next few days.



This Saturday, February the 20th at 7:00 PM Central, I'll host the **Hickory Ridge Concerts Virtual** live stream featuring the "Countrified Jazz" of **Sundae + Mr. Goessl**. Described as "Chet Atkins and Billie Holiday at a cocktail party" they are excellent players with an outstanding "campiness"! Check them out here: <https://youtu.be/Wf-vmBgGD98>. Stream it live here: [https://](https://www.facebook.com/chrisvallillo/live/)

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On Monday, February 22nd, at 7:00 Central, I'll perform a live stream of my show **Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement** for the Illinois Humanities Council and the General John A Logan Museum. Logan was a remarkable historic figure, a racist before the war, he returned and became an important advocate for the black man. Joins us in celebration of Black

History month. This one will be only on You tube at this link: <https://youtu.be/kH58xvWQHRs>. There's no charge so feel free to share the link.

Even though I'm not out on the road, I've been staying quite busy. I've just signed on to do the music for a documentary in Michigan this spring. Working title, *The Marlboro Project*, it will document the rise and extremely rapid fall of the worlds biggest concrete producing plant in Marlborough, MI around the turn of the century. A great era musically, and right up my alley. I can't wait to get back in recording mode again!

In other news, starting on March the 24th, I'll be hosting a live stream series for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area called *Lincoln Conversations*. We'll be presenting a wide range of performers, historical interpreters, and scholars all touching on the Lincoln legacy. We'll start off on Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 central time with internationally known performer, lecturer and cultural ambassador, Reggie Harris as he performs the music of the Underground Railroad and discusses the impact of that historic route to freedom! A descendent of a black enslaved woman and her white master in Lincoln's time, Reggie has spent



his life engaged in bridging the same racial divide that caused the civil war. "Like" *Chris Vallillo Music* on Facebook to keep up with the latest events.



ORPHAN INSTRUMENTS continues to be a very active part of my life these days. I've been working on restoring vintage instruments more than ever since I'm off the road. I'm selling primarily on [Reverb.com](https://www.reverb.com) where I have an [Orphan Instruments](#) page. I like Reverb better than Ebay for selling. It's not an auction, but you can take offers. The sweet spot for sales seems to be 30s through 60s

medium grade guitars (Kay, Harmony, Regal), but I still put in the occasional turn of the century parlor and always have a mandolin or 2 as well.

Last, but not least, I just completed a series of ten 5-7 minute videos based on my Lincoln show called **Abraham Lincoln Shorts**. This was a Covid spin off from a live booking that was canceled. They offered me the opportunity to create the videos in exchange for the performance fee. It's designed as a history lesson for 4th and 5th graders or high school students studying American History. Lot's of cool instruments, a song plus content in each video. I'm currently offering these through the New Harmony Music School and Festival's web site. Any educators that would be interested in receiving the links to view or use, please email me @ vallillo@macomb.com. I'd be glad to share them with you and get your feedback. In the meantime, here's the link to the first session to give you a taste of the series: <https://youtu.be/DsX-q0Pdbng>.



Like all of you,I can't wait for Spring! Stay safe and healthy until we can meet again in person.

Best,

Chris