



Notables

2024 *Songs of the Illinois Freedom Road* premieres at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

2024 New multi-media show, *Forgottonia* premieres at the Hainline Theater in Macomb, IL.

2023 commissioned to create a new show for the Lincoln National heritage Area on the music of the Underground Railroad.

2022 & 2023 Awarded two *Rural Initiative Grants* from the Illinois Humanities Council to develop a new show *Forgottonia*, featuring original music about rural Illinois combined with images from award winning photographer Tim Schroll.

2021 Awarded an *Individual Artist Support Grant* from Illinois Arts to record the new CD *Forgottonia*.

2021 Created *Abraham Lincoln Shorts*, a ten part educational video series that explores the life and times of Lincoln through the music he knew and loved.

2020 Moved *Hickory Ridge Concerts* to a virtual platform keeping the series alive during the Covid-19 crisis.

2020 The April 2018 *Oh Freedom!* performance at WIU is broadcast on Illinois Public TV stations.

2019 Narrated and performed for the Public TV documentary *Illinois Country*, WILL TV, University of IL.

2019 Produced and Performed *Oh Freedom!* at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum featuring the Pleasant Grove Baptist Choir.

2019 Artistic Director for the concert series *The Music of Lincoln's America* for the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL

2018 Music Director/Performer *Illinois 200 Concert Series/Podcast Recording Sessions*. Performed music and backed up additional artists for the 7 Illinois Humanities Council/WFMT Radio Network shows at historic sites across Illinois. Concerts recorded later for broadcast and podcast.

2018 Co-wrote and performed the original 2 man show *Lincoln The Great Communicator* with noted Lincoln interpreter George Buss. Toured the show for the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area.

2017-2018 Produced and performed a theatrically staged version of *Oh Freedom!* featuring the Western Illinois University Singers, a full band, staging and lighting. Produced a DVD of the performance to air on Public TV.

2016: Arranged, performed and recorded the music for the nationally syndicated radio show, *Lincoln in Music and Words* for the WFMT Fine Arts Network. Released an EPK of the music.

2015: Created the show *Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement*. Recorded CD of the same title featuring 11 pivotal songs from the movement. Released January 18th, 2016. Reaches #6 on the Folk Charts.

2015: Scored the music for the *Illinois Freedom Project* on slavery in Illinois for the National Park Service.

2014: Co-wrote and performed the original show *From the Prairie to the Presidency, the Music of Lincoln's Life* with noted Lincoln interpreter Fritz Klein for The Old State Capital Foundation, Springfield, IL.

2013: Scored and recorded music for the film, *The Old State Capital, Witness to History*.

2013: Released 7th recording, *The Last Day of Winter*, a CD of bottleneck slide instrumentals and original songs.

2010: Presenter at the Smithsonian Institution's conference on Traveling Exhibits, *Performance Rights Issues in a Museum Context*.

2009-20011, 2006-2008: Two time Illinois State Scholar for the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition on Roots Music, *New Harmonies*.

2008: The audio CD *Abraham Lincoln in Song* reaches #10 on **Billboard's Bluegrass Album Chart**.

2008: *Abraham Lincoln in Song* receives the endorsement of the **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**. It is performed at **The Abraham Lincoln & Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museums, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, The Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum**, and hundreds of sites across the country.

2008: Keynote Speaker, **Midwest Open Air Museum Coordinating Council**, *Using Music in a Museum Context*.

2006: Host and performer of WTTW, **Chicago Public Television's Arts Across Illinois - Centerstage, Live!**

2005-2007: Developed *Abraham Lincoln in Song*, a one man show using period music directly associated with Lincoln, his own as a vehicle to explore his life and times. CD of music from the show released in 2008.

2003: Producer and host of the *Illinois Mississippi River Valley Project Festival* for the Illinois Arts Council.

2001-2002: Conducted and documented the field work for the Illinois Arts Council's *Illinois Mississippi River Valley Project* documenting artists of all styles along the Mississippi River.

2000: Project Director, *On the Farm Harvest Festival* for the **Museum of Science and Industry**, Chicago, IL

1998: **National Federation of Community Broadcaster's Special Merit Award** for National Music/Entertainment Series for the nationally syndicated radio series, *Rural Route 3*

1995: **National Federation of Community Broadcaster's Bronze Reel Award** for National Music/Entertainment Series for the nationally syndicated radio series, *Rural Route 3*

1990-1997: Host and co-producer of the nationally syndicated public radio performance series *Rural Route 3*.

1993-1994: Composed, arranged and performed the theme song and other period music for the sound track of the 22 part public television series, *The Civil War and Reconstruction*.

1992-1993: Composed, performed, and recorded the soundtrack for *Illinois Historic Panorama*, a thirteen part public television series on the history of Illinois.

1987: Nominated for the **Illinois Arts Council's Governor's Award for Individual Artist**

1987: Designed and carried out *The Schuyler Arts Folk Music Collecting Project*, for the **Illinois Arts Council** in cooperation with the **Library of Congress Folklife Center**, accepted into the Folklife Archives in 1988.

1986: Received the **Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship Award for Music Composition**.

1985: Finalist at the **Kerrville Folk Festival Songwriting Competition**, Kerrville, Texas