



FUN FACTS:

Chris Vallillo began his career, not as a musician, but as an archaeologist.

Yes, his hair is real (not a wig, not a permanent!).

A self taught musician who learned to play slide on a \$2.00 turn of the century parlor guitar (with a warped neck), Chris cuts his own bottleneck slides by hand. He recommends Italian Pinot Grigio or French Merlot as the wines to drink in order make the best slides!

Chris restores vintage instruments as a sideline. His 2013 release, ***The Last Day of Winter*** featured 16 vintage instruments from his collection. His main slide guitar is a 1936 Dobro.

His 2008 release, ***Abraham Lincoln in Song***, charted at #10 on Billboard's Bluegrass Charts.

While hosting and co-producing the nationally syndicated public radio performance series **Rural Route 3**, he performed with cream of the crop singer songwriters and roots musicians - - from **Allison Krause** to **John Hartford**, **John Gorka**, and the **Austin City Lounge Lizards**. The show aired for 7 years on NPR and Community Radio radio stations and received the **National Federation of Community Broadcaster's Bronze Reel Award for National Music/Entertainment Series**.

On the 200th Anniversary of Lincoln's Birthday, Chris performed for the Governor of Illinois then slept in Abraham Lincoln's bed at the Governors mansion.

Chris documented the last of the pre-radio generation of musicians in rural Illinois. The collection was accepted into the **American Folklife Collection** at the Library of Congress.

He arranged and recorded the music for the nationally syndicated radio show, **Lincoln in Music and Words** for the WFMT Fine Arts Network, which was nominated for a **New York Festivals International Radio Program Award**.

Oh Freedom! Songs of the Civil Rights Movement, released on Martin Luther King Day of 2016, charted at #6 on the National Folk Charts.

Chris has served twice as the Illinois State Scholar for the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition on Roots Music, **New Harmonies**.

Both the show and the CD ***Abraham Lincoln in Song*** received the endorsement of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The show has been performed at the **Abraham Lincoln & Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museums**, the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**, the **Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum**, and hundreds of venues across the country.