

# SPENCER BOHREN

PERFORMER • EDUCATOR • ARTIST • STORYTELLER • GUITARIST

## — PERFORMANCE —

Spencer Bohren's music resonates with the ambience of the rivers, roads, and bayous of the American South. He has a marvelous gift for sharing his great love for America's wealth of traditional music, honed over 45 years of performance. Spencer's ability to animate the musicians and singers from the past with both respectful readings of their music and spellbinding stories is legendary.



## — EDUCATION —

Down the Dirt Road Blues, Spencer Bohren's documentary concert, follows the journey of a single song as it travels through America's history and culture. From its pre-slavery African beginning, the song slowly transforms into Mississippi blues, Memphis dance music, a banjo tune from Appalachia, early country music, electric Chicago blues, and finally into folk music and rock 'n' roll. Spencer's concurrent narrative gives students a historical context for the changes that drive the music forward.



## — ARTWORK —

Spencer Bohren's three-dimensional shadowbox assemblages have been called atmospheric, ceremonial, mysterious, spiritual, and magical. In fact, they are all of these things. Utilizing common objects encountered while traveling the globe as a musician, Spencer constructs mystical miniature worlds in small boxes that appear to be relics from some ancient culture. They are precisely made, and their collaged surfaces suggest our unsuspected proximity to the metaphysical world.



## — GUITAR WORKSHOPS —

An introduction to America's treasure trove of blues, country, folk, and gospel music is a perennial favorite for some communities. Spencer Bohren teaches simple methods and tricks designed to get maximum music from your guitar with minimal effort and technique. Geared toward vocal accompaniment, this workshop also includes anecdotes, historical footnotes, and musical philosophy plus instruction and songs in all the relevant guitar keys.



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## IN RESIDENCE

With 20 years of teaching experience in classrooms, universities, and communities across America, Spencer Bohren has developed an astute appreciation for the importance of cross-curricular programs linked to arts in education. Infinitely flexible, Spencer works with presenters to fulfill their needs with relevant programs in music, history and art, whether it is two days or one week



### GRANT EVALUATION OF 2013 RESIDENCY - MEMPHIS, TN

**“Something profound shifted at our school after Spencer’s visit.**

It’s like the world came into Lincoln and the students finally realized that they were a part of it. That this man... brought what they first thought was his “old time jam” to them and presented it in a way that made them realize that it was not just his music, but their music, their heritage, and their ancestral and cultural link to all of America’s music was profound...

Spencer has my highest endorsement. His talent, warmth, wealth of knowledge as an arts educator is unsurpassed. Any school honored enough to have him as a resident artist will be truly blessed.”

*–Lurlynn Franklin, Arts Educator, Lincoln Elementary School–*



### SAMPLE RESIDENCY - SHERIDAN, WY

- 15 Activities in 5 Days
- Concert at the town’s theater
- *Down the Dirt Road Blues* for 2 high schools and 3 junior high schools
- Playing by ear with 1 high school band
- Guitar Workshops for 1 high school and 1 community college
- 2 Reliquary art classes each at 1 high school and 1 junior high school
- 1 Reliquary art class for adults - YMCA
- Concert for the local ARC organization

