

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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UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

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 for one day or one week.



Spencer explains the genesis of slide guitar.

SAMPLE RESIDENCY, UNIVERSITY OF LA MONROE 2010

Interdepartmental cooperation is key to the success of a week-long residency. In addition to campus radio and television interviews, a campus exhibition of Spencer's art, and a concert of **Down the Dirt Road Blues**, Spencer gave the following talks in a variety of classes:

- History of Rock 'n' Roll - Music Classes
- Making a Living in the Arts - Entrepreneurial Classes
- Arts and Media - Media Theory Class
- Songs of Protest - Mass Communications Classes
- 2 Master Classes - Guitar Students
- Art Walk - 2 Art Classes



Spencer works with future art teachers at Morehead State University

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

University of Louisiana, Monroe, LA
Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
Memphis School of Art, Memphis, TN
Fingal Community College, Dublin, Ireland
University of Montana, Missoula, MT
University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
University of Ohio, Athens, OH



Young artist learning shadowbox techniques.

RECOMMENDATIONS

"... every school, at any level, in the country should be booking you ..."

-Dr. C. Turner Steckline, University of LA in Monroe

"An exemplary lesson in fusing song, history and storytelling."

-Tony Keeling, Fingal Com. College, Dublin, Ireland

"Spencer instilled confidence in our personal creative abilities."

-Ann Andaloro, MSU, Morehead, KY

"Your presentation showed how expansive the possibilities are for poetry."

-Dr. David Romtvedt, University of WY in Laramie

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