

# Folk Music

*Interactive Programs for Schools  
and Community Organizations*



**Neil Woodward**  
*Michigan's Troubadour*



*Come all ye sons and daughters*

# Neil Woodward

## Michigan's Troubadour

NEIL WOODWARD IS AN AWARD-WINNING MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST, SINGER, SONGWRITER AND FOLK HISTORIAN. AS A CHILD, HE LEARNED TO SING AND PLAY THE SONGS OF HIS PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.

Woodward's study of American music continues through research in libraries and historical societies throughout Michigan, and nationally with **Smithsonian Folkways** and the **Library of Congress**. He shares his knowledge through the time-honored traditions of the troubadour. His work is a commentary on our life and time, yet stands as a tribute to those who have gone before.

The **Arts Foundation of Michigan** (*now ArtServe Michigan*) recognized the troubadour's tradition for the first time by awarding him their *Creative Artist Grant* (in 1993) for 1994.

The **Detroit Music Awards** have acknowledged Neil's work with nine awards in seven different categories.

The **Library of Congress Office of Folklife, State of Michigan Library** and the **Archives of the State of Michigan** have cataloged Neil's recordings and historical notes.

He is a member and participant in **Michigan Humanities Council** initiatives such as *Michigan's Great Outdoors Culture Tour* and the *Arts and Humanities Touring Program*, which provides funding assistance to schools and community organizations statewide.



*Neil Woodward's  
"presentations were enjoyed...  
it was great for the younger  
students to be introduced  
to the variety of instruments  
and songs."  
- Community Foundation  
for Northeast Michigan*

*"Thank you for playing.  
I like the mandolin.  
The harmonica is cool.  
You are cool!"*

*- Garrett, Grade 3  
Sandborn Elementary  
Ossinkeke, MI*



## America's Folk Music Traditions

**THE FOLK ARTS** TRULY REPRESENT THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR CIVILIZATION. FOLK MUSIC TELLS THE TALE OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT STRUGGLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS. THE SONGS AND STORIES OF THE PEOPLE TRANSPORT LISTENERS FROM THE CLASSROOM OR CONCERT HALL TO THE FRONT LINES OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES.

Neil Woodward's presentations are an education in the musical instruments used in American folk music. Fiddle, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, guitar, autoharp, harmonica, concertina, tinwhistle and others are demonstrated and discussed. Songs are taught and singing along is encouraged. Through several hundred years of traditional and popular music—and Neil's original songs—audiences are challenged to find their own expression and place in history.

The school programs are adaptable to any age group and grade level. Theme-based lesson plans that harmonize with MEAP performance benchmarks and standards are provided. Neil welcomes opportunities to work with teachers and community groups to include specific areas of focus in the presentation. Michigan history, American history, and instrumental music studies are particularly enhanced by these concert/workshops.

## MUSIC PROGRAMS

### Michigan Through the Eyes of a Song

In the tradition of the great American troubadours, Neil Woodward presents a colorful history of Michigan through songs and stories. Travel back in time to meet voyageurs, lumberjacks, freshwater sea captains and sailors, light-keepers and railroaders who were part of the Great Lakes' early commerce. This program celebrates our rich natural, cultural and ethnic heritage, and helps us to understand the present need for environmental awareness.

### American Folk Primer

Sing the enduring classics of Americana with the 21st Century troubadour. Colonial life, the Civil War, westward expansion, cowboys, the labor movement, the Great Depression, and modern times are explored. Celebrate, through their own words, the people that shaped our past and present history and culture.

### How Does the String Sing?

Discover American inventions in stringed instruments. Consider how the guitar has changed on its course to becoming the icon it is today. Including an introduction to the physics of sound, this program demonstrates the similarities and differences of instruments used in classical and folk music America.

For more information, or to order CDs, music videos, and songbooks, please call 517/223-7832 or visit [www.neilwoodward.com](http://www.neilwoodward.com).



Artwork by Ashley

*"You just don't hear music like this. Every song is a story."*

— Camper, Manistique

## Music by Neil Woodward

*Michigan's Troubadour*

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*"The most versatile  
of guardians of  
traditional music  
from the Great Lakes."*

**-Michigan Folk Notes**

*"The protean  
backwoods  
maestro."*

**-Detroit Free Press**