

Bring History to Your Library! American Folk Music Programs for Libraries



LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Folksongs travel through history and history travels through folksongs. Folksongs remind us that historical events were accomplished by ordinary people; not unlike ourselves.

Recognized as one of the living masters of non-fiction storytelling, Adam Miller presents highly entertaining and educational library programs that encourage group singing, interactivity, and questions and answers. Many of the folksongs and stories that he uses in his programs can be found in books that reside in most public libraries.

Each year Mr. Miller performs in over 100 American public libraries, from the Everglades to the Arctic Circle. From his remarkable repertoire of over 5,000 songs, he skillfully creates original, topical, multi-cultural library programs to suit practically any community, anniversary, holiday, occasion, location, or audience.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS capture the attention and imagination of children of all ages with folksongs and folktales.

ADULT PROGRAMS feature historical and traditional folksongs and stories for adult and young adult audiences.

FAMILY PROGRAMS entertain multi-generational audiences: children, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

SEASONAL PROGRAMS include folksongs for popular holidays like Presidents' Day, St. Patrick's Day, National Library Week, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and the Winter Holidays, as well as the birthdays of famous historical characters.

Bookings: Folksinging.org • (650) 804-2049

What Librarians Say About Adam Miller:

"He skillfully weaves songs and the stories behind them, fascinating children and enchanting adults. If you get a chance to book him, DO IT! You won't be disappointed."

— *Bob Jones, Milton-Freewater, Oregon*

"An accomplished musician and a fine presenter who interacts well with audiences of all ages."

— *Robin Leigh, Safety Harbor, Florida*

"Thank you so much for your terrific performance. It was wonderful – entertaining, educational, and different from any program we have had before. You are a natural-born storyteller and have a wonderful rapport with the audience."

— *Kay Kohut, Woodridge, Illinois*

"The best program for children we've ever had!"

— *Vicki Bruce, La Grande, Oregon*

"His unique storytelling ability and vibrant voice make for one great program!"

— *Eleanor Hendricks, Endicott, New York*

"Smiling, singing, moving, and totally engaged – that describes the audience during his performance."

— *Patricia Linville, Seward, Alaska*

"I wish they'd had programs like this when I was in school – songs that relate American folk music to American history."

— *Phyllis Jardine, Pleasanton, California*

"His wonderful songs, warm personality, and depth of knowledge engaged our audience, both young and old. History comes alive and songs are remembered by the old and passed on to the young. I would highly recommend him."

— *Carol Race, Juneau, Alaska*

"His stories are not the boring 'once-upon-a-time' kind, but rather keep you in a constant state of suspense, and his gentle, building guitar chords heighten it. It's all about how folk music lives on through oral tradition and has a 'betcha didn't know you've done it too!' kind of theme. It will charm even the most die-hard of iPod loving kids or reluctant significant-others."

— *Eugenie Amalfitano, Melbourne Beach, Florida*

Adam Miller

Singing Through History!

Folk Music Programs for Libraries

"Impressively educational but also alluringly entertaining – delighting both young and old alike. His energizing performance brought history alive as he skillfully grabbed the audience's attention and transported them with song and laughter through 400 years of history."

— *Ketchikan Sitnews,
Ketchikan, Alaska*

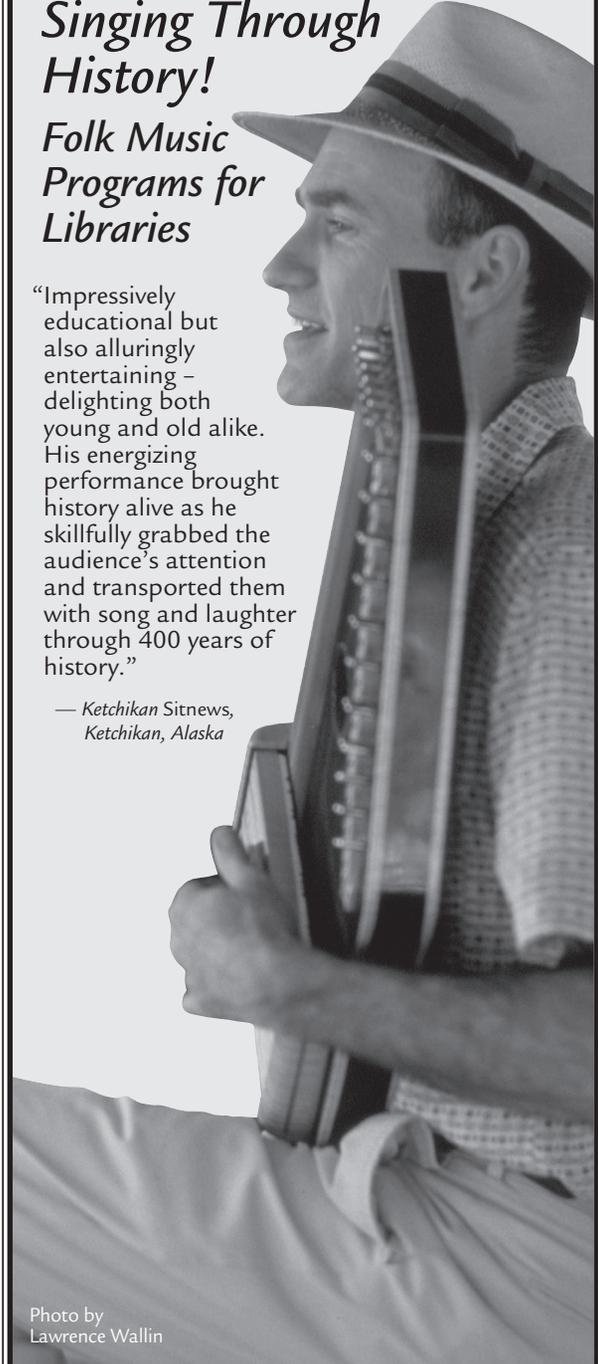


Photo by
Lawrence Wallin

Singing Through History!



American Folk Music Programs for Libraries

Since 1995, legendary folksinger, storyteller, and autoharp virtuoso, Adam Miller, has performed live in over 2,000 American libraries in 48 states. One of the premier autoharpists in the world, he has distinguished himself as a master of non-fiction storytelling and as one of the great interpreters of American folksongs. An award-winning entertainer who never fails to get his audience singing along, he is that rare performer who appeals to audiences of all ages. His family concerts are as enjoyable for children as they are for parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Mr. Miller's multi-cultural musical programs help develop active listening skills, and foster a lifelong love of literature, reading, and listening to stories. And they aid in the development of cultural and historical literacy. A performer who enlightens as well as entertains, he points out fascinating connections between events in history and the songs that survived them, emphasizing the importance of *history as a story well told*. Audience members have a great time learning about American folklore and traditions while singing along. All programs are tailored to be age-appropriate for any combination of ages or generations.

Booking:

Adam Miller
Folk Music Programs For Libraries
P. O. Box 951 • Drain, OR 97435
(650) 804-2049
autoharper@earthlink.net
Folksinging.org

“Singing Through History” Library Programs

❑ Old Songs for Young Folks

It wasn't that long ago when only Kings and Queens were rich enough to have other people play music for them. In the old days, regular folks like you and me had to make our own music. That's why it's called “folk music!”

❑ Woody Guthrie: American Balladeer

In his short life, Woody Guthrie wrote over 1,000 American folk songs – and he didn't use an original melody for any of them! The story of the man who wrote, “This Land is Your Land,” one of the most widespread English-language folksongs.

❑ Colonial Days

A musical exploration of life in the English and Dutch colonies in North America – broadsides, ballads, and sing-along folksongs from the days of the War for Independence.

❑ Going to the West

Folksongs of the Westward Migration: the Oregon Trail, pioneers, Indians, and the opening of the American West.

❑ The Civil War

Folksongs from the time of the War Between the States, including Abolitionist anthems, President Lincoln's campaign songs, and the songs sung by Union and Confederate soldiers.

❑ The Gold Rush

The discovery of gold in California, South Dakota, and Alaska sparked a frenzy that shook the world. People swarmed to the gold fields from as far as China and Australia. Their folksongs give insight into their actual hardships and triumphs.

❑ Songs to Grow On

Fun, simple, and silly sing-along folk songs, with lots of hand movements for small children with big imaginations.

❑ Just For Fun Sing-Along Songs

Sing-along folksongs with easy choruses, musical games, and story songs, with an emphasis on having fun singing together.

❑ Cowboy Songs and Frontier Ballads

An introduction to Western folklore and folksongs: the stories and songs of real, hard-working American cowboys, and the caricatures and legends that have evolved about the West.

❑ The Great American Railroad

100 years ago there were 250,000 miles of parallel steel rails crisscrossing the USA and one out of every 28 Americans worked for the railroad. No wonder people still sing so many songs about trains, hobos, conductors, engineers, and the days of the steam engine.

❑ Steinbeck Country Odyssey

John Steinbeck modeled many of his fictional heroes on his close friend, marine biologist Edward Ricketts of Cannery Row. A musical exploration of their friendship and collaboration, featuring folksongs and stories from California's Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, and Salinas Valley.

❑ The American Labor Movement

The American Labor Movement was a singing movement. This program features folksongs by and about the people who built America, and their struggle to improve the conditions of their labor.

❑ Whaling and Sailing Songs

200 years ago, every lamp that burned was filled with oil made from the carcass of a great whale. Authentic 18th and 19th century sing-along shanties, and saltwater sailor songs, from the days of Moby Dick.

❑ Folksongs of World War One

70 million military personnel participated in the First World War (1914-1918) – “The War to End All Wars.” Many of the songs from this conflict have become part of the English-language oral tradition.

❑ Halloween Folksongs

Traditional and contemporary English and American chants, ballads, and folksongs for All Hallows' Eve.

❑ Folksongs of the Winter Holidays

Well-known and not-so-well-known traditional folksongs and carols for New Year's Eve, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice.

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