## Steven J. Schmidt Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist

www.stevenjschmidt.net





"Beautiful imagery and guitar playing!" - Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer Two-Time GRAMMY<sup>®</sup> Award Winners

"There could be no better title for this CD ("Heartland"). With these songs, Steven has courageously opened up his heart and invited the listeners to experience an amazing reflection on some of the highest and lowest moments in his life. His guitar work is extraordinary; embracing the sad whimsy of a Nick Drake and the creative fury of a Leo Kottke. It is a perfect CD for anyone who enjoys great guitar and great stories."

- Ken Onstad, President - New Folk Records

"Steven J. Schmidt... a talented guitarist and gentle, introspective lyricist."

- Jeff Pieters, Rochester Post-Bulletin

"Steven J. Schmidt's song lyrics are a vivid mix of deep honesty and vulnerability that seamlessly meld with haunting and engaging melodies."

- Sean Dowse, The Sheldon Theatre Red Wing, Minnesota Steven J. Schmidt, recipient of a Sally Irvine Ordway award for Commitment, recognizing lifetime achievement, contribution and leadership in the arts and/or culture, has written hundreds songs and each one is like a bottle of fine, bourbon barrel-aged stout. He performs his rich, fullflavored original tunes, crafted over the last forty years, at house concerts, coffee houses, brew pubs, wineries, and festivals.

A highly skilled guitarist some refer to as "a folkie with chops," Steven is noted for his fingerpicking, novel chord voicings, use of alternate tunings, and playing up-the-neck.

Schmidt has composed and performed musical soundtracks for public television, film and theatrical performances. He has shared the stage with many folk music greats. His music has been featured on PBS-affiliate KSMQ-TV's "Off 90" program, KBEM's "Twin Cities Weekend" broadcast entitled "Steve Schmidt Creates Midwestern Songwriting Legacy," the "Open Mic America" webcasts and a "Music of America" podcast.

Performance configurations include solo, duo, trio and, for festivals and blocks of five or more dates, full band.

<u>west</u> **channel** records

## For Booking Information Contact booking@stevenjschmidt.net







Watch the PBS (KSMQ-TV) Video: <u>https://youtu.be/qAkvfXhDy9o</u> Listen to KBEM's "Twin Cities Weekend" broadcast entitled "Steve Schmidt Creates Midwestern Songwriting Legacy" <u>https://exchange.prx.org/p/349058</u> Listen to the "Music of America" podcast : <u>https://player.captivate.fm/episode/f46bdc6e-45e4-</u> <u>45e6-9348-96d969d79365</u>

"A Midwestern heart with and old soul. I love how he tells stories with music and paints beautiful pictures with his storytelling. He amazes me... a fabulous songwriter, fabulous musician, fabulous storyteller... the epitome of what I like to see when I go to house concerts."

- Tom Pollard, "Music of America" Podcast

"(Schmidt's) audience engagement was amazing, not like another show I have been to... (his) songwriting was inspirational and diverse. The show had a great feel and it was cool to be involved with such an intimate event with a singer/songwriter that has the portfolio Schmidt brings."

-Annie Henderson, The C4 "Creative Salon"

"The Road is more than just a well-recorded album. It speaks because it offers a glimpse into those gritty places in life most of us know well, offered through storytelling that is heartfelt and, in many cases, vulnerable in a raw and plaintive way. "

-Guy Mendilow, Composer/Performer/Educator

"Steve Schmidt closed the show... his beautiful fingerstyle acoustic guitar was the perfect finale for the evening. " -Dan Lambert, "Living Blues" Magazine



## Highlights...

- "Heartland" CD released in December 2015
- "The Road" CD released in September 2014
- Appeared on Si Kahn's "I Have Seen Freedom" album, produced by Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer
- Competed at National Fingerpicking and Flatpicking contests (Winfield, KS)
- A Center for the Arts (Fergus Falls, MN)
- Sheldon Theatre, Red Wing, MN
- "Over the Back Fence," St. Mane Theatre (Lanesboro, MN)
- Great River Folk Festival (La Crosse, WI; Singer-Songwriter Competition Finalist)
- "Open Mic America" webcasts
- "Music of America" podcast
- Border Folk Festival (El Paso, TX)
- Uncommon Ground Lakeview/Wrigleyville (Chicago, IL)
- Lakeside Street Coffeehouse (Madison, WI)
- The Tonic Room (Chicago, IL)
- Elmaro Vineyard (Trempealeau, WI)
- Fitger's Brewhouse, Duluth, MN
- Wenonah Brewing Company (Goodview, MN)
- Four Daughters Vineyard & Winery (Spring Valley, MN)
- Fisher King Winery (Mount Horeb, WI)
- Acoustic Café Eau Claire (Eau Claire, WI)
- Patrick's Cabaret (Minneapolis, MN)
- Underground Music Café (St. Paul, MN)
- Acoustic Café Winona (Winona, MN)
- Elk River Farmers Market (Elk River, MN)
- LTS Brewery (Rochester, MN)
- Café Steam (Rochester, MN)
- Rochesterfest (Rochester, MN)
- Forager Brewery (Rochester, MN)
- Thursdays Downtown (Rochester, MN)
- FARM Folk Alliance Region Midwest Conferences
- International Folk Alliance International Conferences
- Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conferences
- He has shared the stage with Pete Seeger, Dewey Balfa, Elizabeth Cotton, Mike Seeger, David Holt, Doc Watson, Bryan Bowers, Cathy Fink, Marcy Marxer, John McCutcheon, Tom Paxton, Lehto & Wright, and Peter Yarrow
- Board member and officer of Sing Out, Inc., publisher of <u>Sing Out!</u> magazine, folk music books and recordings

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