

# Steven J. Schmidt

## Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist

[www.stevenjschmidt.net](http://www.stevenjschmidt.net)



"Beautiful imagery and guitar playing!"

- Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer

Two-Time GRAMMY® 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 of songs and each one is like a bottle of fine, bourbon barrel-aged stout. He performs his rich, full-flavored original tunes, crafted over the last fifty years, at house concerts, coffee houses, brew pubs, wineries, and festivals.

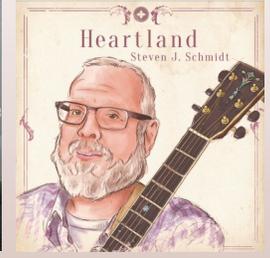
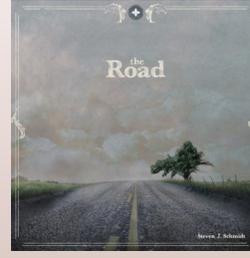
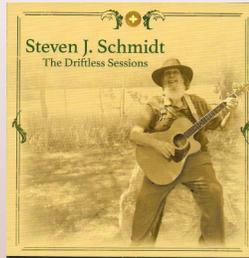
A highly skilled guitarist some refer to as "a folkie with chops," Steven is noted for his fingerpicking, novel chord voicings, use of alternate tunings, and playing up-the-neck.

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.

west  
channel  
records

For Booking Information Contact  
[booking@stevenjschmidt.net](mailto:booking@stevenjschmidt.net)



Watch the PBS (KSMQ-TV) Video:

<https://youtu.be/gAkvfXhDy9o>

Listen to KBEM's "Twin Cities Weekend" broadcast entitled "Steve Schmidt Creates Midwestern Songwriting Legacy"

<https://exchange.prx.org/p/349058>

Listen to the "Music of America" podcast :

<https://player.captivate.fm/episode/f46bdc6e-45e4-45e6-9348-96d969d79365>

"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 CA "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...

- A *Songwriter's Craft* YouTube Series premiered 2025
- *The Driftless Sessions* album in released June 2025
- *Heartland* album released in December 2015
- *The Road* album 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 [Sing Out!](#)

For More Information Please Visit... [www.stevenjschmidt.net](http://www.stevenjschmidt.net)  
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# Steven J. Schmidt

## Singer/Songwriter/Guitarist

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Beautiful imagery and guitar playing! (Steven's 2023 "Tiny Desk Concert" submission – "The Witch of the Reeds")  
**Two-Time GRAMMY® Award Winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer**  
<https://www.cathymarcy.com/>

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/Loud Folk Records**  
<https://newfolk-records.com/>  
<https://loudfolkrecords.com/>

Relaxed and tender singing & playing of a haunting tale.  
**Craig Dunn, retired Executive Director of VSA Arts Minnesota**

Steven J. Schmidt... a talented guitarist and gentle, introspective lyricist.  
**Jeff Pieters, Rochester Post-Bulletin**  
Rochester, Minnesota

The audience engagement was amazing, not like another show I have been to in Rochester. Schmidt's 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, C4 (Rochester, MN) Board Member**

Schmidt's thoughtfully crafted lyrics weaved a series of stories for the audience to enjoy. The talented trio are truly masters at guitar playing and impressed the audience by performing on a variety of guitars and stringed instruments. The musicians' finger picking was clean and soulful. The performance delighted the audience with Americana music featuring stylings from folk, blues, and rock rhythms. We look forward to the Steven J. Schmidt Trio returning to perform at the festival again next year!  
**Judy Hickey, Rochesterfest Midday Entertainment Coordinator**  
[www.rochesterfest.com](http://www.rochesterfest.com)

"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**  
<https://www.guymendilowensemble.com/>

Steve Schmidt is a great singer, guitarist, and songwriter. We are very fortunate to have him in southern Minnesota.  
**Kick Kimmel, Minnesota's "Ambassador of Bluegrass"**  
<http://www.dickkimmel.com/index.html>

Steven J. Schmidt's song lyrics are a vivid mix of deep honesty and vulnerability that seamlessly meld with haunting and engaging melodies. In the midst of an audience unfamiliar with Steve's artistry, I observed immersed attention and enthusiastic response to deft musicianship and a new and penetrating vision. I... highly recommend his show, his songs, and his appealing brightness.

**Sean Dowse, The Sheldon Theatre (Retired)**  
Red Wing, Minnesota

\*\*\* More \*\*\*

"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*  
<https://www.musicofamericapod.com/>

"Wonderful songs and whew, love your guitar wizardry! Poignant songs and terrific fingerstyle!"  
*"Capo" Dave Williams, Founder and Producer, "Open Mic America"*  
<http://openmicamerica.com>

My Newcomer Classroom was fortunate enough to enjoy a concert by Steve Schmidt. He is a master at engaging students with his lively songs and skillful guitar playing. Steve allowed students to participate through singing, movement, call-and-response, and thoughtful questions. Since our classroom is filled with new English learners from around the world, I was especially pleased that students could learn about American Folk Music. Steve's concert provided students with a fun, cultural experience. We have continued to sing and hum the songs Steve taught us!

Carolyn Franzone, 1-2 Newcomer Center  
Riverside Elementary School (A Turnaround Arts School)  
Rochester, Minnesota

A thoughtful blend of folk-rock anthems and earnest ballads. A CD ("The Road") made with care and love.  
Ken Waldman, Alaska's Fiddling Poet  
<http://www.kenwaldman.com/>

Fabulous songs and musicianship!  
Mister Mojo, MOJO & the Bayou Gypsies  
<http://www.redhotmojo.com/>

Steve Schmidt closed the show... his beautiful fingerstyle acoustic guitar was the perfect finale for the evening.  
Dan Lambert, [Living Blues Magazine](#)

Schmidt plays some of the sweetest traditional country finger-picked guitar around.  
[Paso Del Norte Magazine](#)

Steven Schmidt... a talented picker-composer.  
*Bobby Booth, American Federation of Musicians [Quarter Note](#)*

Steven Schmidt really got the audience going with his fancy picking on both guitar and banjo.  
*Bob Burns, [Upper Valley Weekly](#)*

### Important Links

YouTube Channel: [@StevenJScjhmidsongwriter](#)  
Bandcamp: <https://stevenjschmidt.bandcamp.com/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stevenjschmidt.music/>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/stevenjschmidtmusic>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-j-schmidt-09391127/>  
Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/7LAAFA7xSzmXXxTkNJEAjK>