

Steven J. Schmidt – Medium-Length Bio

Steven J. Schmidt, Sally Ordway Commitment Award winner recognizing his lifetime achievement, contribution, and leadership in the arts (<https://youtu.be/uEYSBOPsbsk>), is a Midwestern singer/songwriter who 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,” Steve is noted for his fingerpicking, novel chord voicings, use of alternate tunings, and playing up-the-neck.

Steven has been touring in support of his recently released “The Driftless Sessions” project and his “Heartland” and “The Road” CD’s. Both albums are available on his web site (www.stevenjschmidt.net) and through Amazon and I-Tunes/Apple Music. His music has been featured in a PBS-affiliate KSMQ-TV’s “Off 90” segment (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAkvfXhDy9o>), KBEM’s “Twin Cities Weekend” broadcast entitled “Steve Schmidt Creates Midwestern Songwriting Legacy” (Public Radio Exchange -- <https://exchange.prx.org/p/349058>), three “Open Mic America” segments (<https://openmicamerica.com/performer/schmidt-S.html>), and a “Music of America” podcast (<https://player.captivate.fm/episode/f46bdc6e-45e4-45e6-9348-96d969d79365>).

Two-Time GRAMMY® Award Winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer (<https://www.cathymarcy.com/>) write, “Beautiful imagery and guitar playing!” about Steven’s 2023 National Public Radio “Tiny Desk Concert” submission, “The Witch of the Reeds”. Ken Onstad, President of New Folk Records (<https://newfolk-records.com/>), says about Steve’s “Heartland” album, “There could be no better title for this CD. 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.”

Steven makes his home in Rochester, Minnesota. He recently retired from his “day job” as General Manager of the City of Rochester Music Department/Riverside Concerts where booked and supported more than one hundred distinct services each year. Steven and his wife, Elizabeth, are the principals at West Channel Records and West Channel Music publishing.

Steve’s Website:

<https://stevenjschmidt.net/>

Steve’s Facebook Artist Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stevenjschmidt.music>

Steve’s YouTube Channel:

@StevenJSchmidtSongwriter

Steve’s Spotify Channel:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/7LAAFA7xSzmXXxTkNJEAjK>

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