

Dennis Stroughmatt Concert and Discussion

Originally from southeastern Illinois, Dennis Stroughmatt was taught to play fiddle by Missouri Creole fiddlers Roy Boyer and Charlie Pashia in the tradition of their fathers. He became an adopted son of the French Midwest Creoles who settled near St Louis, playing at weekly house parties or “bouillons.” As a result of physical journeys that also included French studies in Louisiana and Quebec, Dennis finds himself in a unique position as one who can speak knowledgeably and play in a variety of French styles. He has an innate sense of what is needed to get an audience on their feet, and keep a band on its toes. Dennis Stroughmatt is a passionate ambassador of Creole music and traditions, expanding interest and excitement in a region that has been ignored by the history books.



“I loved this program because this Scotch-Choctaw lad from Illinois had, by nature of his very nature, become a Missouri Frenchman, in a manner of speaking. He had studied with older people during the last decade of the 20th century and who gathered to speak the old language and to sing the old songs. Precious cargo, this store of experience and memory in the soul of Dennis. I felt lucky to encounter him and his French music, it is a reflection of a time past that we are fortunate to carry forward for future generations.” —Michael Bouman, Executive Director Missouri Humanities Council

Dennis Stroughmatt’s achievements include: National Oldtime Fiddlers Hall of Fame, Missouri Governor's Humanities Award, Center for Folk Studies Grant Winner, Illinois Arts Tour Grant Winner, and more.

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM Eastern DST

Zoom Virtual Presentation

Tickets: \$5 for this performance or \$12 for the 3 event series by reservation only (5CLIR members attend for free)

For Tickets: Contact https://5clir.org/?page_id=9670&preview=true

This Program is presented by 5 Colleges Learning In Retirement (5CLIR) as part of a three-part series of Musical Traditions of the American South. 5CLIR is a non-profit organization that provides residents of the Pioneer Valley in Western Massachusetts with a broad spectrum of peer-led educational programs. For more information about 5CLIR, contact 5clir@smith.edu.