



Chris Monti is a writer, singer, songwriter, musician and bandleader. He sings and plays acoustic and electric guitar: fingerpicking, flatpicking and playing slide. He also plays harmonica, clawhammer-banjo, bass, kazoo, dobro, lap steel and a little bit of mandolin and piano.

Chris performs solo, singing and playing acoustic guitar and rack-harmonica, and leads both acoustic and electric bands that perform his original music. He has released three records: Home, Locust Grove, and Swampland Flowers on CMO Records. Chris has performed from New England down to Florida and in Alaska and Washington State.

Chris is a sponge soaking in the diverse musical styles he immerses himself in: from country-blues to West African and Caribbean dance music, from free music to rock and roll, from old-time to improvisation, then incorporating the new style into his own writing and playing.

Chris says: "Paying attention to the present moment is important in both writing and playing songs. In writing a song I am trying to clearly perceive something—a character, a situation, a feeling—and find a fresh new way of expressing it through words and music. Every time I play a song it is a further exploration of it: emotionally, intellectually, musically, and purely sonically."

Chris musical repertoire includes a lot of traditional folk songs and old-blues music. He enjoys doing his part to keep that music alive, and playing and listening to it informs his own songwriting. He plays wild acoustic folk music at farmers markets and has a repertoire of folk music and sing-alongs that he performs for children in schools and hospitals.

Chris has had the pleasure and honor of opening shows for and touring with country-blues great Paul Geremia, and has also had the pleasure of playing music with The Providence Wholebellies (led by harmonica wizard Chris Turner), and with Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, and with composer Steve Jobe (playing the gigantic Bosch Hurdy-Gurdy).

Chris is a current member of the long-running group, The Killdevils, with Jake Haller and is a frequent collaborator with The Rank Strangers. He played and served more or less honorably in The Double Decker Dance Band, The 'Mericans, Third Story Congress (feat Mr Bodega), Low School, PV=NrT, The Architecture Band, Brown Sugar and the Promised Land, Franz Schubert and Pals and at countless jams, old-time sessions, free music episodes, ear-cracking feedback explorations, and sunny-day outdoor in-the-grass sit-downs.

