



# Scott Ainslie

*“ Scott is the kind of musician they don’t make anymore, in the mold of the late Pete Seeger — unpretentious, dead serious about his craft ... dedicated ... versatile...”*

*— Pamela Constable, [The Washington Post](#) (2015)*

*Considered a master of American roots music, Scott Ainslie brings a wealth of personal and musical history to the stage. With engaging stories he provides historical context for a repertoire of Delta Blues and ragtime guitar, gospel, and music of the banjo and fiddle traditions of the Southern Appalachians. Coming of age during the Civil Rights era, Ainslie studied with elder musicians on both sides of the color line. With a deep affinity for cross-cultural exchange, he plays this music with affection, authority and power.*

*Armed with vintage guitars, a fretless gourd banjo, a homemade one-string diddley bow, and carefully chosen historical and personal anecdotes of his encounters with senior musicians across the South, Ainslie brings the history, roots music, and sounds of America alive.*

*Scott Ainslie literally wrote the book on the Mississippi Delta Blues legend, “Robert Johnson/At the Crossroads”. Exploring the African and European roots of American music and culture in every concert, “he **lives** in the groove ...” says the [Durham NC Spectator](#).*

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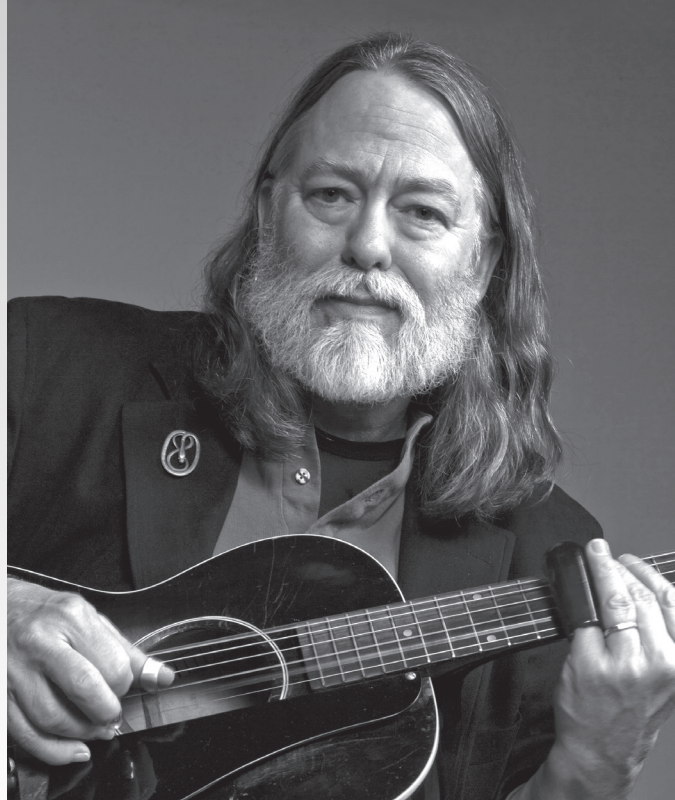
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*My mother found me at the piano when I was three, picking out the melodies from records she listened to during the day. I am one of the lucky ones: I have been a musician all my life.*

*My time with senior masters of the Southern traditions of Old-Time and Blues has made me a believer in apprenticeship: we should allow a tradition to change us, before we change it. The cost of singing a song is to become the song.*

*As these elders have passed, their music, traditions, and gifts rest in our hands. My traditional and original works are rooted in my experience, which is rooted in theirs. I play and raise my voice out of respect and gratitude.*

— **Scott Ainslie**



## Concerts and Multi-Media Presentations

### – **Just a Concert!**

A compelling performer on any stage, Scott draws upon an engaging palette of sounds and stories that will tickle the ear, awaken the mind, and satisfy the heart.

### – **The Land Where the Blues Began: Music & Landscape of the Mississippi Delta**

A multi-media concert showcasing the geographic and social history of the birthplace of the Blues. With songs from Delta legends Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, David Honeyboy Edwards, and others. Performed against a backdrop of digitally-projected images of the Delta and culled from the Library of Congress collections, with the addition of Ainslie's original photos of the Delta.

### – **One Hundred Years at the Crossroads: A Tribute to Robert Johnson**

Tightly focused on the facts and known history of this Delta Blues legend, featuring Johnson's songs, social context, and musical influences. Ainslie authored a book and an instructional DVD on Johnson's music, both published by Hal Leonard Corp.

### – **1934 Gibson**

Centered around his sixth and latest CD, *The Last Shot Got Him*, this concert features a 1934 Gibson archtop guitar and the music of its youth: Mississippi John Hurt, Rev. Gary Davis, Robert Johnson, Fats Waller, Yip Harburg and Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, and more. (Note: When airline travel is required, an additional travel allowance for this vintage instrument may apply).

## Arts in Education - Teaching Artist

Teaching performances for students from elementary through graduate schools. Study guides are available to support schools with arts integration across the curriculum, linking music to history, language arts, and social issues. Selected offerings:

### – **Before Rock 'n' Roll**

An engaging combination of history, stories, and the music that influenced rock and roll. Family and K-12 audiences participate in specific African cultural and musical retentions that continue to have a vibrant place in contemporary American music and culture.

### – **Across the Color Line: The African South**

With a calabash gourd banjo, a one-string diddley bow, acoustic and slide guitars, Scott Ainslie profiles the creative impact of African-American musical and cultural traditions found on Old-Time mountain music, Blues, and Gospel traditions in the American South.

Study Guide available. Along with a step-by-step guide for making diddley bows with students as a follow-up.

### – **Teacher Workshop: Blues and the Science of Sound**

Three-hour arts integration workshop is a wealth of ready-to-use activities, led by a seasoned educator.

### – **Master Classes and Workshops**

A perennial favorite at teaching camps such as Swannanoa Gathering, Ainslie is in high demand for master class and teaching workshops. Contact us to learn more.

Represented by: Joann Murdock



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