

George Winston

Solo Harmonica Concert

Most of the music that George Winston plays on solo harmonica is from the Appalachian/Old-Time Music traditions, as well as some from the Celtic traditions, the Cajun traditions, and the early Blues. George's two main mentors for solo harmonica have been:

1. Sam Hinton, who, starting in the 1930s, invented three solo harmonica techniques: stride harmonica (playing bass, chord and melody), counterpoint, (playing two melody lines at the same time), and playing a drone note in parts of a song. Sam also uses the technique that harmonica players in the 1920s used on their recordings of chord accompaniment (playing chord and melody). George uses these techniques and variations of them as the basis for much of his own playing. George has also recently co-produced a recording of Sam Hinton's entire solo harmonica repertoire of mainly American and Celtic pieces on the double CD set *MASTER OF THE SOLO DIATONIC HARMONICA*, which also features live recordings from the 1970s, the 1980s and 1937. Also see www.samhinton.org.

2. Rick Epping, who is a wonderful player of Celtic and American tunes and more. Rick is also a great harmonica inventor and technician, creating new tunings and new types of harmonicas, including the recently issued Hohner XB-40 which has a great tone, and where *all* the notes can be bent. George is also recording Rick's extensive repertoire of solo harmonica playing as well as his duets with harmonica and the Irish concertina (played simultaneously). Also see www.rickepping.com, and you can find Rick Epping videos on www.youtube.com.

George is also working on solo guitar and is also recording the masters of the Hawaiian Slack Key guitar tradition for Dancing Cat Records. Slack Key is the solo finger-style guitar tradition unique to Hawaii, which began in the early 1800s (and predated the steel guitar by 60 years). www.dancingcat.com.

George has released the album *SOLO HARMONICA* and his most recent piano albums are *SPRING CAROUSEL- A CANCER RESEARCH BENEFIT* (2017) and *GULF COAST BLUES & IMPRESSIONS 2-A LOUISIANA WETLANDS BENEFIT* (2012). Most of the time he is touring, playing solo piano concerts (the *Summer Show* or the *Winter Show*), as well as solo guitar concerts, solo harmonica concerts, and solo piano dances (featuring New Orleans R&B & slow dance songs).



AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY

George has also been inspired by many great harmonica players and other musicians in these traditions: **1. Appalachian/Old-Time Country** - Sam Hinton, Rick Epping, Doc Watson, Kyle Wooten, El Watson, William McCoy, Gwen Foster, Henry Whitter, Charlie McCoy, & Mark Graham; *fiddlers* Eck Robertson, Marcus Martin, Tommy Jarrell, Wilson Douglas, Norman Edmonds, Uncle Bunt Stephens, Isham Monday, Melvin Wine, John Salyer, Marian Sumner, W.M. Stepp, Luther Strong, Ed Haley, Henry Reed, Ward Jarvis, Benny Thomasson, John Hartford, Clyde Davenport, Lisa Ornstein, Oliver Schroer, Jerry Rogers, Alan Jabbour, Christian Wig, & Mike Bryant; *banjo players* Dock Boggs & Bob Webb; *multi-instrumentalists* Curt Bouterse & Mike Seeger; *guitarist* Dudley Hill.

Two great sites for Appalachian fiddle playing are:

- a. The Digital Library of Appalachia - see www.acadla.org - then go to *Browse by topic*, then to *Music*.
- b. The Field Recorder's Collective - great label with field recordings of old time fiddlers & more - see www.fieldrecorder.com.

2. Celtic - Sam Hinton, Rick Epping, Phil, John, & Pip Murphy, Brendan Power, Mick Kinsella, P.C. Spouse; Irish fiddler Kevin Burke, Scottish bagpiper Fred Morrison, & The Bruno Morris Dance Band.

3. Cajun - Artelius Mistic & Isom Fontenot; *accordionists* Amede Ardoin & Marc Savoy (the Cajun accordion uses the same tuning as harmonica standard tuning); *fiddlers* Wayne Perry, Dennis McGee, & Michael Doucet; & Quebec fiddler Louis Boudreault.

4. Blues - Deford Bailey, Peg Leg Sam, & Sonny Terry, Freeman Stowers, George "Bullet" Williams, Palmer McAbee, Sunny Boy Williamson, Rice Miller, James Cotton, Little Walter, Mark Ford & Andy Just.

5. Contemporary Harmonica - Howard Levy, Will Scarlett, Richard Hunter, Lee Oskar, Norton Buffalo, John B. Sebastian, John Popper, Jason Ricci, & Glenn Weiser.

We have invited a local food bank to set up in the lobby tonight, and would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in the food drive. The proceeds from sales of the CDs here tonight will benefit the food bank.

George Winston:

- **HARMONICA SOLOS** - Studio and live recordings (Volume 2 is planned).

Sam Hinton:

- **MASTER OF THE SOLO DIATONIC HARMONICA** - Sam Hinton's entire solo harmonica repertoire, including studio tracks and live tracks from the 1970's, the 1980's and 1937.
www.samhinton.org

Curt Bouterse:

- **BANJER ON MY KNEE** - This multi-instrumentalist has been one of the biggest influences on George's harmonica playing. Includes *Felicita*.
home.earthlink.net/~curt_bouterse/

-
1. For more on George's harmonica playing including tunings, techniques, and more, go to www.georgewinston.com, then to "Q&A," then to "Harmonica Related Questions."
 2. For harmonica videos, go to: www.youtube.com/georgewinstonpiano
 - **George Winston**: *Flowers of the Forest*, and *Old Time Medley*
 - **Sam Hinton**: online harmonica lesson in 17 parts
 - **Rick Epping**: *Belasicko Oro* (you can also see more Rick Epping on YouTube)