

Scott Ainslie

Drawing on the musical legacies of Delta Blues legends Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, the East Coast's Blind Blake, and Durham's own Reverend Gary Davis and Blind Boy Fuller; Scott Ainslie is a noted performer and scholar with two decades of experience teaching elements of African and African-American music to students of all ages, both in the classroom and from the stage. For this work, Ainslie has received numerous awards including St. Andrew's Presbyterian College 20th Annual Sam Ragan Fine Arts Award, a place as University of North Carolina Public Fellow, and grant awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council.

Coming of age during the Civil Rights era, Scott continues to have a deep reverence and affection for cross-racial exchange and approaches the tradition with the care and respect it is due. Scott honors the African and American roots of the tradition and presents a mesmerizing tour of both the music and the history of the Blues.

Educational Programs

Interactive educational concerts are tailored to specific grade levels, Ainslie leads audiences of all ages clapping and singing through a survey of more than a century of musical history, showcasing the interplay of African and American musicians and musical traditions. Offerings include:

Call and Response: African and American Musical Traditions

In a program of spoken words and live musical performances, diverse audiences of all ages will sing and clap with Scott Ainslie through a survey of the hidden history and the dynamic interplay of more than a century of American and African musical traditions.

Across the Color Line: The African South

In this varied program featuring the calabash gourd banjo, diddley bow, fiddle and guitar, Scott Ainslie tours and teaches the music of the American South where European and African musical traditions cross-pollinated to make the powerful hybrids that have long dominated popular music in our nation and, subsequently in the world. Picking up the banjo and fiddle, Scott Ainslie brings his broad musical and scholarly expertise forward in a program that profiles the broad impact of African musical and cultural traditions found in Old-time mountain music, Blues and Gospel music in the South.

Songs of Conscience: Piercing the Veil

One of the primary functions of music, history and art is the development of compassion. Travel with Blues singer and guitarist Scott Ainslie from the Underground Railroad through the Civil Rights era; from the labor struggles of the early 1900's to the mill closings of the 1990's, as he examines the role of music in society and presents the history and songs of the struggles for civil rights, for peace and economic justice.

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Scott Ainslie: Workshops

The Blues Voice

This workshop is part history lesson, part philosophical discussion, part vocalese! Working with a chorus or singers in the classroom, Ainslie examines the backgrounds of divergent vocal styles with special emphasis on understanding the cultural and historical aspects of European and West African culture that inform vocal styles in America. This is a great class for singers and 'non'-singers alike.

The Roots of Coolness Workshop

A workshop on the African roots of 'coolness,' following the notion from the Yoruba tribe in Nigeria, via the Caribbean slave trade up into America. This class dramatically reveals how cultural information and aesthetics move and demonstrates how America has benefited from diverse traditional cultures.

African Retentions in American Music

African retentions, the parts of African traditions that were retained and passed on to us through the Blues, are featured in this workshop which shows how African traditions of call and response, polyrhythms, syncopation, and the expanded vocal palette of African and African-American singing are expressed in American music.

Blues Writing Workshop

An interactive group workshop that aims at completing a finished Blues song at the end of the activity period (50-75 minutes). It is an inclusive brainstorming activity that solicits participation throughout a process that has proven successful and useful for a wide variety of students.

For Scott's BluesRoots Teacher's Study Guide and additional educational resources, please go to:

<http://cattailmusic.com>

or

<http://www.loydartists.com>

Feel free to contact Scott for content details of his programs and logistics. His professional calendar, contract negotiations and bookings are all handled by Peggy Baldwin and John Loyd at Loyd Artists.