

Pat Walke Biography

Pat Walke, a native of Preston, Iowa, performs old time traditional ballads and songs on clawhammer style banjo, harmonica, mountain dulcimer and autoharp. Her repertoire includes pioneer folk music and historical songs and tunes from the 1800s and early 1900s.

Pat is on the Iowa Arts Council Artist Roster and has performed all over Iowa and the Midwest in schools, libraries, living history events and re-enactments. She is a member of Lost in the Weeds, a popular old time string duo that plays for barn dances and other venues in the Quad Cities area. Another band is formed for Civil War re-enactments, called the Hangfire String Band.

Pat's day job is teaching general music K-6, and coordinating the technology at Sacred Heart School in Maquoketa, Iowa.

Booking Information

Rates: \$150 per hour, plus round trip mileage at 40¢ a mile. Pat can provide a sound system for another \$25.

Funding is available for non-profit organizations for Pat's performances through the Iowa Arts Council. Visit www.iowaartscouncil.org for information.

Needs: adequate stage area, a chair, a glass of water.

Usually, Pat will perform in modern street clothes but should the venue demand it, she can perform in the historical costume of the following eras:

- Fur Trade Era (up to 1840)
- Civil War
- American Pioneer Settler (1800s)

Pat's schedule and sound clips are available at:
<http://showcase.netins.net/web/deepcreek/PatWalkeBio.html>

Pat Walke
3627 105th St.
Preston IA 52069
pwalke@netins.net
(563) 689-6691, land line
(563) 593-0252, cell



Pat
Walke



Pat's Repertoire

The general categories of Pat's songs include but are not limited to:

- American Pioneer Songs
- English Ballads
- German Folk Songs
- Sea Shanties
- Cowboy Songs
- Spirituals
- Old Time Fiddle and Banjo Tunes
- Civil War Songs

Suggested Venues:

- Schools and Libraries
- Civil War Re-Enactments
- Pioneer Days
- Living History Outdoor Museums
- Folk Music Festivals



Traditional Instruments

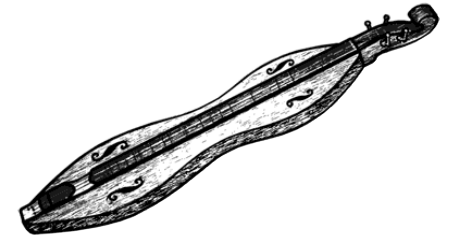
The **banjo** came to America with the slaves from Africa. Pat plays clawhammer or frailing style. The type of banjo preferred for clawhammer banjo is an “open-backed” 5-string banjo, which does not have a resonator. The style lends itself well to both instrumental solos and accompaniment for singing. Pat plays a 1983 Billy Mathews Supertone Dixie Wonder banjo. Supertone was the brand name for mail-order Sears instruments before the name was changed to Silvertone. Her newest banjo is a Gold Tone Cripple Creek mini 5 string banjo, which is in the tonal range of the SS Stewart Banjeaurine of the late 1800s banjo orchestras.



The **autoharp** is one of the few instruments that survived the hybrid zither era. From about 1870 on, before widespread use of phonographic records, many of these instruments were touted as being easily played and were very popular. Most of those types of instruments, such as guitar zithers, mandolin zithers and pianolins, are now in museums or attics, but the autoharp is still played as a solo instrument or as accompaniment for singing. Quite a bit of interesting music can come from the “poke a button and strum” format of the instrument. Pat plays a 21-chord Oscar Schmidt Appalachian autoharp.



The **mountain dulcimer** is related to the zither. The exact origins of the the instrument are not known but it does seem to be from the Northern European continent, especially Scandinavia, Germany and France. A related instrument from Norway, the psalmodikon, was played in Northeastern Iowa around the Decorah area. This style of mountain dulcimer is from Appalachia, particularly Kentucky.



Workshop Offerings:

Beginning Clawhammer Banjo: Simple beginning banjo tunes using the clawhammer style. Participants bring their own banjos.

Beginning Autoharp: Push a button and strum chords to sing songs! Beginning melody instruction for those who are interested. Participants bring their own autoharps.

Beginning Mountain Dulcimer: Simple beginning tunes, using the first string. Pat can supply 16 tuned mountain dulcimers for the participants.

An Old-Fashioned Barn Dance! You supply the barn or hall, Pat can bring a band and a caller for a fun dance for all ages!