

# West Virginia Folklife Apprenticeship 2020 Artist Profile

## Submission Information – Joe Herrmann

### 1. Biographical Information

- Born 2/23/1949 in Baltimore, MD
- Currently live in Hampshire County, WV (Since 1973)
- I first started playing banjo at the age of 12 and started playing fiddle in 1974 when I moved to Critton Hollow outside of Paw Paw, West Virginia where I continue to reside. I discovered a wealth of older musicians in the area who encouraged my pursuit and were generous in their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise. To this day music continues to be an inspiration and a motivation in my day to day life. I am fortunate to live in a community that shares my enthusiasm. It has also been my good fortune to have imparted much of what I have learned with many local musicians.
- Old time fiddle is a genre of American folk music. "Old time fiddle tunes" derived from European folk dance tunes such as Jig, Reel, Breakdown, Schottische, Waltz, Two Step and Polka. The fiddle may be accompanied by banjo or other instruments but are nevertheless called "fiddle tunes".

### 2. Artist Statement

I first discovered old time fiddle music at the age of 23, having played banjo and guitar since the age of 12, prior to that. I was initially influenced by contemporary musicians of the time. I learned from field recordings that I would make whenever I was at places where fiddle players would gather and I sought older fiddle players in my local area and learned from them. I practiced many hours daily and would say that I was absorbed by the pursuit.

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### 3. Additional Contact information

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