

Harmonica Workshop with Matthew Skoller

To promote the art of harmonica playing and to support the **4th Annual Harmonica Invitational** at the Contemporary Art Center's weekly music event, *Live at the Five Spot* on Friday, June 22, 5:30-8:30 pm, internationally known harmonica player **Matthew Skoller**, who will perform at Harmonica Invitational, will also provide a workshop at Don's Music Land in Peoria.

WHEN: Saturday, June 23, 1:00-3:00

WHERE: Don's Music Land, 7717 N University, Peoria, IL 61614

COST: \$45.00

BRING: Hohner C harmonica (Marine Band, Marine Band Crossover or Special 20) or purchase one at Don's Music Land.

MINIMUM STUDENTS: 10 (if the minimum is not reached the class will be cancelled)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 16 by 5:00pm

REGISTER TODAY: Call 692-0854 or email info@donsmusicland.com to register for this workshop or for more information.

WORKSHOP DETAILS: This workshop will cover the fundamental techniques necessary to operate the diatonic harmonica. We will also be discussing the history of the harmonica with an emphasis on Chicago Blues history. Skoller will demonstrate the techniques used by the great Blues harmonica masters such as: Little Walter, Sonnyboy Williamsons 1&2, James Cotton, Junior Wells, Carey Bell, Jimmy Reed and others.

There will be a music appreciation component to the course and all students will leave with a list of classic Blues harmonica songs that are indispensable and compulsory for all students of Blues harp.

The workshop is designed to work with a broad range of skill levels and will offer a lot to beginners, intermediate players as well as the more advanced.

Skoller, who has been on the Chicago Blues scene for 35 years, will also share personal experiences he has had with some of the great Blues artists he worked with and learned from.

This course will be as interesting to Blues enthusiasts and aficionado's as it will be to harmonica students. Come one, come all!!

Please bring a Hohner 'C' harmonica (Marine Band, Marine Band Crossover or Special 20) or purchase one at Don's Music Land.

ABOUT MATTHEW SKOLLER: As one of Chicago's most respected harp blowers and blues bandleaders, Mathew Skoller has played all of Chicago's heaviest showcase venues and toured much of the world with his super tight ensembles for the past 32 years. Deeply rooted in the tradition of the Chicago blues elders with whom he worked and studied, Skoller has developed a unique style that conjures the past while being firmly planted in the present.

In the past 7 years, he has performed on 4 Grammy nominated CDs and two of his original compositions have been nominated for song of the year by the Blues Music Awards. Including the title cut of his 2016 release Blues Immigrant which has been hailed by critics as one of the best Blues releases of that year. He has produced 2 of Lurrie Bell's most critically acclaimed CDs and coproduced Chicago Blues A Living History: The (R)evolution Continues as well as 5 of his own albums. Visit www.matthewskoller.com for music, videos and more.

But it is his live performance that has kept Skoller working in the Blues business for his entire adult life. A consummate storyteller, his soulful vocals and muscular harp work are the foundation his insightful, poetic and award winning lyrics rest upon. Uniquely, Skoller brings a singer-songwriter sensibility to a lifetime of deep Chicago Blues experience.

Since moving to Chicago in 1987 Matthew has worked with and/or recorded with: Jimmy Rogers, Koko Taylor, Big Daddy Kinsey and the Kinsey Report, John Primer, Lurrie Bell, J.W. Williams and the Chitown Hustlers, Willie Kent, Lovie Lee Watson, Big Time Sarah, Deitra Farr, Gloria Hardiman, Michael Coleman among many others.

A charismatic and fiery performer, the flame from the torch that was passed to him by the Blues elders he jammed with and hung out with over the years (who also included Sunnyland Slim, Pinetop Perkins, Dave and Louis Myers, James Cotton, Carey Bell, Junior Wells, Billy Branch among many others) burns brighter than ever.

ABOUT THE HARMONICA INVITATIONAL CONCERT: Contemporary Art Center's 4th Annual Harmonica Invitational, Friday, June 22nd, 5:30 - 8:30pm. Three of the Midwest's greatest harmonica players: Matthew Skoller, Joe Asselin, Calvin Woodring perform in a special 3-hour Live at the Five Spot event. Admission \$12-nonmember, \$8-Members

For more information about the concert, contact William Butler, Executive Director, 309-674-6822 or artcentr@mtco.com. Contemporary Art Center is located at 305 SW Water St., Peoria, Illinois, 61602. Visit www.peoriacac.org