

Phil Passen

Phil's program presents music of the Civil War in progression, from the war's beginning to its end. The hammered dulcimer was popular in the United States during the Civil War, and music of that era seems right at home played on this unique instrument. Many tunes and songs in this program are still familiar today, such as "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"; "Home, Sweet, Home"; "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching". Others, such as "Lincoln and Liberty"; "The Battle Cry of Freedom"; and "The Marching Song of the First Arkansas Regiment" are less familiar but just as beautiful, rousing, and inspiring.

Phil is one of the few musicians who sing while accompanying themselves on the hammered dulcimer, whose name means "beautiful song."

Phil has been playing the dulcimer professionally for over 15 years. He plays frequently for area libraries, and his library programs have been selected "Best of the Best" by the Library Administrators and Coordinators of Northern Illinois.