

Banquet d'honneur

Heure: 19h00-21h30

Regency AB



Lors de ce repas, l'AATF aura le plaisir de saluer les lauréats des divers prix 2017. Les présentations seront suivies d'un concert offert par Dennis Stroughmatt. Buffet dinner and Cash bar (pré-inscription obligatoire).

Dennis Stroughmatt



Dennis Stoughmatt, born and raised in southeastern Illinois, is an authority on the French Creole music and culture of "Upper Louisiana" (Illinois-Missouri-Indiana), an area once know as "la Louisiane." By an amazing string of chance events, young Dennis Stroughmatt came upon the descendants of these Midwestern settlers, and he spent over three years in the Old Mines District of southeast Missouri studying and learning to speak Illinois French Creole, play the fiddle, and sing many of the traditional songs that have permeated the region for over three hundred years.

Preserved by the families in the hilly Ozark foothills, the music remains largely intact compared to the more contemporary stylings of other North American French regions. Weekend-long *bouillon* parties gave him the opportunity to understand the strong, driven nature of the music and its people—an experience shared by few others in the world. Still today the music jumps and turns with the quick pace of the old dances: jigs, reels, and mazurkas.

Dennis would go on to live, work, and play music in the Cadien country of Louisiana and to study in Quebec, thus completing the circle of French culture in North America. A medley of music, language, stories, and culture secreted away in the Missouri Ozarks now has a voice in the tapestry of this world. With the blessing of the Creole people of the Midwest, Dennis Stroughmatt and *l'Esprit Créole* are its passionate ambassadors, expanding interest and excitement in a region that has been, in many ways, ignored by the history books. It'll make your soul jump, your head spin, and your heart glad to know that it is still here. As they say in the hills: "On est toujours icitte!"

Dennis has a B.A. in Historic Preservation from Southeast Missouri State University and an M.A. in History from Southern Illinois University. He is the recipient of the 2015 Missouri Governor's Humanitarian Award and a 2015 Inductee in the National Oldtime Fiddler's Hall of Fame.