



John Huron builds and plays a variety of historical instruments. His gourd banjars (replicas of 1800's slave instruments) are currently in use at the Colonial Williamsburg, Old Salem, and Rocky Mount Living History Museums. His fretless mountain banjo, mountain dulcimer, mouthbow and "bones" are copies of instruments that have been played throughout the southern Appalachian mountains for over a century. Huron's own contributions to folk instruments, the Birdhouse Banjo and the One Holer, are little three-stringed instruments that "make quite a wonderful racket."

Through classes and demonstrations at such places as the John C. Campbell Folk School and Foxfire Museum, Huron seeks to preserve the heritage of Appalachian instruments and music. He has also combined his knowledge of 18th and 19th century Appalachian music, history, and folklore to develop a series of presentations that include "African-American Influences on Southern Appalachian Music," "Songs and Stories of the Southern Soldier," "Appalachian Animal Songs and Stories," and "A Southern Appalachian Music Sampler (1790 - 1890)."



During the programs, Huron uses a variety of traditional and historic instruments along with songs, stories, audience participation and "a good bit of information that got left out of your last American history class" to weave a cloth he calls "edutainment." As the audience listens to centuries old tunes played on authentically crafted period instruments, they are offered a unique audio journey back into the musical heritage of this country.



Specific information on instruments, demonstrations, classes, and music programs can be had by contacting John Huron, 1220 Windsor Avenue, Bristol, TN 37620, (423) 764-3332.

some people say . . .

"Thank you for your excellent work in reproducing the African banjar. The authentic craftsmanship is superb! The addition of this instrument has been important to our interpretation of early African American culture."

Christy S. Matthews, Director
African American Interpretations
and Presentations
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

"I was delighted with your performance. It was a rich program in which your instrumental skill was combined with fascinating historical information, humor, and warmth."

Folly King Ewell, Director, Special Programs
William King Regional Arts Center

"Mr. Huron obviously loves his work. His enjoyment of making instruments is evident by the way his face lights up and his eyes sparkle as he tells about the instruments themselves and how he got started in the instrument-making business."

Lacey Hunter, Senior Editor
Foxfire Magazine

"The comments from our visitors have been overwhelmingly positive. I have always been particularly pleased with your program on African-American influence on musical traditions in our nation and the students in our summer apprentice program have always enjoyed your class on early American music and beginning tin whistle."

Carolyn B. Wilkinson, Director of Education
Rocky Mount Museum

"By the time you were finished, I thought you had given your listeners new knowledge, regardless of the age or interest level. An excellent program connecting the history of your handmade musical instruments with the history of the tunes played. Presented in a very entertaining and enjoyable manner."

Blair White, Assistant Director/Curator
Carroll Reece Museum, East TN State Univ.



NOTEWORTHY INSTRUMENTS *Handcrafted in Tennessee*

John J. Huron, Proprietor
1220 Windsor Avenue
Bristol, TN 37620

"Thanks for pickin' Noteworthy Instruments"



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