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SOUTHERN CULTURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

MARCH 7, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Nashville Artist to Perform Mesmerizing Concert

VICKSBURG, MS: The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation presents a guitar workshop and concert by Nashville guitar artist, Johnny Bellar. The workshop will be held in the SCHF Academy Building on Friday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. - 3:00 pm. and the special concert performance will be held in the SCHF Auditorium also on Friday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The concert is *free* and open to the public. The workshop registration fee is \$150.

Johnny Bellar is a virtuoso player of both the resophonic guitar (an acoustic instrument played with a metal slide invented in the 1920's and popularly known as the Dobro) and the lap steel guitar (an electric adaptation of the resophonic). He is a regular on the Nashville Now television program and on the Grand Ole Opry. Born and raised outside of Nashville, Johnny was introduced to music at an early age. He began playing the guitar at age 14 and the resophonic a year later. After graduation from high school, Johnny began playing with the legendary Stoneman Family in 1974 and continued touring with them until 1984. While performing with the Stonemans, Johnny appeared on such shows as Hee Haw, the Ralph Emery Show and the Tommy Hunter Show. After leaving the Stoneman family, Johnny performed for three years with the bluegrass gospel group, the New Tradition. In 1987 Johnny decided to concentrate on his own music and worked his way into the Nashville studio scene. Since then, he has performed at Opryland USA and with Wilma Lee Cooper on the Grand Ole Opry and throughout the country. He currently has 10 solo albums of original music displaying a great versatility and musical styles.

Many are simply mesmerized watching his hands as they move over the strings. The sounds he is able to coax from the Dobro testify to the genius of his talent. Whether he's performing in the dimly lit Bluebird Café in Nashville, or in the glaring sun at an outdoor folk music festival, he's a stand out!

Even with a bustling performance schedule, Johnny continues to compose sophisticated and fascinating melodies for the Dobro. A true genius, a remarkable innovator and a legend in the making.

For more information about this exciting performance and workshop, please call the SCHF office at 601-631-2997 or email info@southernculture.org.

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