

# Richard Knechtel

The elements of a quality performance are clearly evident when you see Richard Knechtel on stage. Confident, creative and friendly, his presentations are full of spontaneity and fun.

He draws from a large repertoire of material that includes everything from catchy original compositions to the most popular songs of the 20th century.

*"It's all about repertoire in many ways - being able to pull out a song that fits the moment. I love being a 'student' of music; learning as many styles as I can, finding the soul of a song and developing a way to deliver it with an acoustic guitar".*



Deliver he does! Richard compliments his warm distinctive voice with dynamic rhythm guitar interspersed with virtuoso harmonica playing.

A perennial favourite on the folk festival circuit and a popular special events performer, Knechtel's talents are recognized far and wide. From small stages to large, Richard always engages an audience with a heartfelt and energetic approach.

*"Simply put, I love to play music. I've been a musician all my life".*

Performing professionally since 1970, Richard plays 150 - 200 dates a year. He has released 16 full-length albums on his Greentree Music label and is a prolific songwriter with some 450 original songs to his credit.

Knechtel was the Artistic Director of the Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival from 2007 - 2011 drawing accolades from the folk music community for his excellent programming. He is the recipient of an Owen Sound Cultural Award for Music, he has served as a Board member for ArtsCan Circle and he founded the Songs from the Heart competition for the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals.

Richard also performs as 'Dickie Bird' with an action-packed, fun-filled show for children that features ample opportunity for participation. Dickie Bird comes equipped to entertain with upbeat music, puppet pal Doug the Wug, a suitcase full of magic tricks plus lots of gizmos and gadgets.

*"There are lots of people who know me best as Dickie Bird. My goddaughter came up with the nickname years ago and it's been fun to adopt a performing persona especially for the kids' show".*

Richard Knechtel aka Dickie Bird offers something special for audiences of all ages. Good taste and dependability are hallmarks of a successful career spanning five decades. Richard's great music and positive attitude are always appreciated.

