

Indiana Hoedown



Indiana Hoedown is a radio program of traditional music from the Hoosier State performed by musicians from communities all over Indiana.

Paul Tyler is the guide of this musical tour that will take you into the homes and lives of fiddlers, pickers and singers from the farms, villages and cities of Indiana.

WIPU is the producer of **Indiana Hoedown**. The public radio facility is located on the campus of Indiana University — Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

Description

An **Indiana Hoedown** is an old custom, going back to pioneer days, of neighbors getting together for an evening of dancing and visiting. In the early days, when Indiana was first being settled by folks of European stock, a community would gather for a day of shared labor — to clear a field, build a cabin or raise a barn. When the work and evening meal were completed, the folks would clear the floor, pull out the fiddle and bow and dance the reels and hoedowns they had brought with them to their new homes.

Indiana Hoedown is also the name of a radio program that seeks to preserve the old traditions, to present the old customs of community dances as they are today, and to feature the traditional music and all the newer styles that have developed out of the old. To do this, host Paul Tyler has taken tape recorder in hand and traveled all around the state to visit with Hoosier musicians and dancers, to hear their music, and to talk with them about their lives.

The result is a series of programs that will focus on a variety of music and dance traditions in a variety of communities. The fiddle holds the place of honor, but the banjo, mandolin, concertina, accordion, piano and many other instruments have been given their due. Everything from bluegrass and country music to ragtime and blues to German polkas and Macedonian syrtos will be heard on **Indiana Hoedown**, as well as a few old ballads and fiddle tunes "that my grandpa used to play".

A word of thanks should be offered to the many people, from all parts of Indiana, who agreed to play for the tape recorder, to tell their stories, or to make available old recordings, photographs, newspaper clippings or other information they had in their possession. These folks are living proof that the legendary hospitality of Hoosiers is based on fact.

Indiana Hoedown was produced through the facilities of WIPU on the campus of Indiana University — Purdue University at Fort Wayne. Funding for this program has come through grants from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities in co-operation with the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Indiana Arts Commission; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University and the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress.

For more information on the cost and availability of **Indiana Hoedown** call or write:

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Series One



1. **Francis Geels of Decatur:** A hoedown fiddler talks about and plays some of the tunes he's picked up in his 40 years of fiddling.
2. **Oktoberfest in Hoagland:** Polkas and bratwurst are the fare for an annual celebration in this northeastern Indiana community.
3. **Herman Fox, Hugh Sowers, and the Entertainers:** Now that they're retired, these five men have more time for music. Herman's concertina playing and Hugh's fiddling go back to before World War I.
4. **Bluegrass in the Cornbelt I:** The "high lonesome sound" of traditional bluegrass was brought to the mid-west by a number of musicians from the south who came north looking for work.
5. **"Wabash Gal" and Other Homegrown Tunes:** A Hoosier fiddle tradition can be heard in tunes played by Edgar Hursey of Ligonier, Donald Duff of Lebanon, Noble Melton from Crawford County, and others.
6. **New Blood in Old Time Music:** Dan Gellert of Elkhart and Bloomington's Easy Street String Band are part of a younger generation of musicians which is enthusiastic about the old-time music of southern mountains.
7. **Ragtime in Indiana:** The music of the ragtime era could be heard from city streets to country roads; on pianos, banjos and mandolins. Special guest: John Hasse, Director of the Indianapolis Ragtime Project.
8. **Vic and Henry Rigsby:** Vic is one of the foremost bluegrass musicians in northern Indiana. His music is rooted in the old banjo songs his father Henry used to play back home in Zag, Kentucky.
9. **Radio Folk I:** For 25 years, starting in 1925, "The Hoosier Hop" on WOWO-Fort Wayne broadcast live the old familiar music, country and cowboy songs of groups like the Blackhawk Valley Boys, Nancy Lee and the Hilltoppers, and the Downhomers.
10. **Radio Folk II:** In the 30's, 40's, and 50's groups like the Hoosier Cornhuskers and the Indiana Redbirds had live radio shows that featured old traditional tunes.
11. **East European Music in Hoosier Cities I:** Macedonians and Greeks in Fort Wayne have kept in touch with the old country by keeping alive their dance and music traditions.
12. **Hector Phillips from Pike County:** When this elderly farmer played "Fire on the Mountain," a young fiddler hearing him for the first time said, "That should be called 'Fire on the Fiddle'." Special Guest: Folklorist Dillon Bustin.
13. **"An Indiana Hero" and Other Ballads** will be heard on this program featuring songs that tell a story.

Series Two



14. **John W. Summers and Frank Wischart:** One of the benefits of sound recording is that it is possible to hear some of the great fiddling that past generations of Hoosiers heard at square dances and fiddle parties.
15. **Eine Kleine Volksmusik:** German music has endured in the Hoosier State, played by both relatively recent immigrants and by musicians whose families came here several generations ago. Special guest: Folklorist Gary Stantun.
16. **The Mandolin and the Guitar** are fairly new folk instruments, but they are quite versatile as proved by several Hoosier musicians who use them for everything from pop to parlour music, and from blues to bluegrass.
17. **Bluegrass in the Cornbelt II:** Many mid-western musicians have adopted bluegrass as their own, and also adapted it to their own repertory and musical ideas.
18. **"Tennessee Wagner" and Other Southern Fiddle Tunes** have been brought to Indiana by transplanted Southerners such as Adlie Hedges of Portland, Bernard Lee of Brown County, David Hall of Monticello, Lowell Logan of Muncie, and others.
19. **The Great American Five-String Banjo** is said to be the only truly American instrument. Hoosier musicians can get a great variety of sounds out of those five strings.
20. **Naptown Blues:** In the 1930's when the record companies were looking for blues musicians to record, they found some great ones in Indianapolis — Leroy Carr and Scrapper Blackwell. And when blues became Popular in the 60's, "Guitar" Pete Franklin, Shirley Griffith and others were still playing the blues in Naptown.
21. **The Smelsers of Orange County** have a family tradition of music which they have kept alive. Special guest: Dillon Bustin.
22. **Dance Tonight!:** This is part one of the story of the Indiana Hoedown, focusing on the barn dances held in an area in the northeastern part of the state.
23. **Come to the Dance:** The story of the Indiana Hoedown continues as part two explores square dancing in a region in south central Indiana.
24. **East European Music in Hoosier Cities II:** This program features Greek and Yugoslav music in the Calumet area, and how the old world traditions have fared in their encounter with American music.
25. **Fiddle Champs:** Harold Zimmerman, Mac McClain, and Gene Wilhite play tunes from the world of contest fiddling.
26. **When the Roll is Called Up Yonder:** It seems fitting to close out the series in a traditional way, with some gospel and sacred music sung by Hoosier folk.

Paul Tyler



Paul Tyler was born and raised in Hoagland, Indiana where he received his first taste of square dancing at wedding receptions and other dances held at the Hoagland Hayloft: it was the beginning of a long love affair. After graduating from Valparaiso University, Tyler moved to Detroit where he played and taught folk style guitar. One thing led to another, and he studied the mandolin, banjo, hammer dulcimer, concertina and the fiddle.

After several years in Detroit, Tyler returned to Indiana where he introduced the weekly radio program *Indiana Hoedown* to the Fort Wayne community through WIPU. Due to the fact that there were very few recordings of Indiana musicians and Paul knew many traditional musicians, he decided it was important to record and document traditional music and present the music to the public to make people more aware of local folk traditions. Hence, this special *Indiana Hoedown* series was born.

Paul Tyler continues to play music for his own enjoyment and to call and teach square dancing and country dances from many cultures. Tyler currently resides with his wife Pat in Bloomington.

WIPU is a public broadcasting facility of
Indiana University — Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

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