

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

NICHOLAS S. SCHILLACE

Nick Schillace received his B.A. in journalism from Oakland University in 1997. While at OU, he was a part of a small group of students that successfully lobbied for an FM radio license for the student radio station. The group rebuilt the station from the ground up, including the construction and installation of all necessary studio and transmission hardware. After many obstacles, Mr. Schillace was the first to officially broadcast a three hour program on September 16, 1995. During his last three years of undergraduate studies, he served as program director for the radio station, overseeing the hiring, training, and programming of the over seventy-five volunteers, as well as upholding the station's mantra of free-form, non-commercial, community based programming.

After graduation, Mr. Schillace attended three years of post-bachelor studies in music at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. During his studies, he was encouraged by Dr. Mary A. Wischusen to pursue graduate work. While at WSU, he received the John Panteleo Scholarship, the Graduate Professional Scholarship, and the Music Study Club Scholarship. He completed his master's thesis, John Fahey and American Primitivism: The Process of American Identity in the Twentieth Century, during the fall of 2002.

Mr. Schillace has been a guitarist since 1985. Initially self taught, he later went on to study with Dr. James G. Lidgett, Henry Feinberg, Brian Roberts, and Steve Carryer. He has attended the Augusta Heritage Festival at Davis and Elkins college in West Virginia several times, studying blues and old-time music with traditional and contemporary musicians such as John Cephas, Del Ray, Philadelphia Jerry Ricks, Paul Rischell, Nat Reese, Pat Donahue, and the late John Jackson.

Having taught guitar since 1991, he has run his own music studio since 1999. He actively composes music and does sound design, having worked on the independent films Born Cool: A James Dean Story and A Haunted Heart, as well as several student films and commercial projects. He performs guitar throughout the metro Detroit area in both solo and group settings, utilizing both unprocessed acoustic guitar, as well as creative electronic applications. His emphasis is on original collaborations with visual artists utilizing both improvised and composed music forms.