



# Bruce Archer

Singer | Songwriter | Guitarist

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## Highlights

- *The Hallowed Land*, Album release date 08.14.2019 | Songwriter, Vocals, Slide Guitar, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Harmonica  
<https://brucearcher.hearnow.com>  
This project was made possible by a grant provided by the Five Wings Arts Council with funds from the McKnight Foundation.
- *Backroads*, Air date 11.19.2017 | Lakeland Public Television  
<https://lptv.org/backroads-2102-bruce-archer/>
- *Seeing Music/Hearing Canvas*, 07.14.2018 | Performer/Co-coordinator  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44BxegfwXel>
- Individual Artist Grant Recipient, Five Wings Arts Council, 01.22.2019 | Studio Recording
- Guitar Instructor, April 2018–present | Bridge of Harmony, Brainerd, MN

## Venues

A few of the notable venues/events where I've performed since 2017:

- *Backroads Live Concert Recording*, Rail River Folk School, Bemidji, MN
- Blues & BBQ Bash, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge, Deerwood, MN
- Community Events, Fundraisers, and Private Parties
- Harvest Festival, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
- Oremaggeddon Packet Pick-up Party, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
- *Seeing Music/Hearing Canvas*, Live Music/Visual Arts Performance, Brainerd, MN
- Septemberfest, Brainerd, MN
- St. Francis Catholic Church Annual Booya, Brainerd, MN
- Breweries  
Big Axe Brewing, Nisswa; Copper Trail Brewing, Alexandria; Disgruntled Brewing, Perham; Jack Pine Brewery, Baxter; Lost Lake Tavern, Lake Shore; Roundhouse Brewery, Brainerd
- Markets  
Cuyuna Range Farmers Market, Crosby; Ideal Farmers Market, Pequot Lakes.; Laurel Street Market, Brainerd; Park Rapids Farmers Market; Sprout Marketplace, Little Falls

## (Life)Timeline

1973 – Receive first guitar at age 16

1975 – *Carousel of Music*, Eagle Grove (IA) High School; first live performance

1975–80 – Attend Iowa State University (ISU); study English and Journalism

- Audition (unsuccessfully) to play guitar for production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*; one of many learning opportunities

1976–78 – Play in my brother's rock band during summer breaks, some weekends

1976–80 – The Catacombs, ISU, open mic performances

1978 – First paying gig as solo performer

- Terry Feldot of Major-Minor Fretted Instruments & Repair Shop, Ames, IA shows me banjo rolls while playing slide on a Dobro; changes the course of my guitar life
- Play Dobro with Terry's band for one gig; realize my passion still lies with acoustic guitar and songwriting; keep working on the fingerstyle Terry taught me

1980–82 – Assembly Line, rock band co-founded with my brother; highlights include:

- Opening act for Shooting Star, a nationally touring headliner, at So's Your Mother, Des Moines, IA
- Self-record several live demo recordings and self-produce two 40-minute live performance videos
- Jerry Lewis Telethon, local TV affiliate uses video in 2am–4am timeslot

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- 1982–87 – The Frames, form alternative rock band and move to Minneapolis
- Paying gigs in alt-rock venues (e.g., Uptown Bar, Fernando's, 400 Bar, Cabooze, etc.)
  - Hire Dave Boquist to play guitar, fiddle, and banjo; Dave goes on to become a founding member of Son Volt
  - *Twin Cities Reader* names The Frames as one of four heir-apparents to Minneapolis-upstarts-turned-national bands The Replacements, Soul Asylum, Jayhawks, The Suburbs, and Husker Du
- 1987–88 – Performance projects with Dave Boquist
- Busking in Minneapolis; develop loud, fast fingerpicking and slide techniques that can be heard over traffic
- 1988–92 – Polk County, co-found acoustic duo; play range of bluegrass, folk, rock
- Hire bassist Cynthia Bartell, founding member of Tetes Noire, the first all-women alt-rock band in the 1980s Minneapolis music scene
  - Open for national acts such as the Uppity Blues Women, Jayhawks, Ronny Lane (legendary bassist for Rod Stewart's band Small Faces), etc.
- 1991 – Polk County self releases *From Top to Bottom* EP
- KFAI/Fresh Air Radio plays Polk County's acoustic version of "Fuel to Spare," which I originally wrote for The Frames
- 1993–96 – Practice solo acoustic sets for listening venues
- Play guitar for friends' recording projects; play their CD release events
  - 7th Street Entry, last gig in Minneapolis
- 1996–2010 – "Life is what happens when you're busy making plans"
- 2002 – Relocate to the Brainerd area; become full-time stay at home dad
- 2010 – *The Stars Are Out Tonight*, fundraiser/talent show where I play a couple of songs and remember how much I enjoy performing
- 2010–16 – Revisit playing and writing songs that explore topics beyond "Sleep, Baby, Sleep," "Butter Toast," and "Poopy Diapers"
- Brainerd area breweries open; recognize opportunity to marry patrons' openness to challenging, complex brews with complex original music
- 2016 – Purchase sound equipment; practice and write in earnest
- 2017 – Roundhouse Brewery, first paid gig in the Brainerd lakes area
- *Backroads*, Season 2/Episode 2; Lakeland Public Television production
- 2018 – *Seeing Music/Hearing Canvas*, Brainerd, MN; live music/visual arts event, performer/co-coordinator
- 2019 – Individual Artist Grant recipient, Five Wings Arts Council; music studio recording
- Opening performer, Ruttger's *Blues & BBQ Bash*; event featured Javier Matos and The Dee Miller Band
  - Release *The Hallowed Land*  
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- 2017–present – More than 70 live performances since April 2017