

Michael Jerling has been writing, recording and performing his own songs for over fifty years. His baritone voice is backed up with consummate skill on six and twelve string guitars, harmonica and mandolin, all buoyed by his dry sense of humor. He displays a first-rate lyrical sense and impressive musicianship, borrowing from blues, rock, country and R&B. A keen student of the good and ghastly in American life, Michael weaves themes like a novelist, evoking our shortcomings and dreams without yielding to cynicism or sentimentality. Often praised as a "songwriter's songwriter," he's been characterized as an artist who performs his "extraordinary songs with the uncommon ability to deliver them to an audience with power and grace."

Born and raised in Illinois, songwriter Michael Jerling became involved with music while helping to run the campus coffeehouse at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Now settled in Saratoga Springs, New York, Michael has been a noted artist on the club, college and festival circuits of North America.

Michael was a winner of the prestigious "New Folk" competition at the **Kerrville Folk Festival** in Texas, and his involvement with the seminal **Fast Folk Musical Magazine** in New York City led to his song "Long Black Wall" being included in the **Smithsonian Folkways** CD celebrating twenty years of Fast Folk.

Michael has released 11 albums of his original songs since 1979. The twelfth release, [*They Live On In Word and Song*](#) (2023) is a departure from these in that it is a collaboration with author Patricia A. Nugent. It reflects their live performances together with vignettes from Patricia's memoir and nine of Michael's songs including two new compositions. This was made possible by a grant from the New York State Council for the Arts.

2018 marked the release of [*Family Recipe*](#), featuring 12 new original songs on his own [Fool's Hill Music](#) label. Family Recipe reached #8 on the Folk DJ Chart. [*Halfway Home*](#) was released in 2014 and [*Music Here Tonight*](#), recorded live at the legendary Caffè Lena in Saratoga Springs, NY, was released in 2009.