

Matthew Sabatella & the Rambling String Band

Ballad of America

songs of people who made a country

About Matthew Sabatella

Matthew Sabatella is a singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, performer, educator, and interpreter of traditional American folk songs. In 2001, he began developing *Ballad of America*, a multi-faceted program that preserves America's rich musical heritage and presents it in a relevant way for the 21st century. He whole-heartedly believes in the power of traditional folk music to inspire people and help them better understand people and events from the past.

In awarding Matthew the **George Washington Honor Medal** in November of 2007, the **Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge** stated that his *Ballad of America* program “exemplifies the essence of the National Awards by promoting an understanding and appreciation for our country's rich heritage and unique freedoms.”

Matthew was named **Best Acoustic Performer** in 2005 by *New Times Broward/Palm Beach*, and he won first place in the **Old-Time Singing** competition at the 2008 **Florida Old-Time Music Championship**.

Traveling to Thailand, also in 2008, Matthew performed American folk music in Umphang and played banjo with traditional Thai musicians at a special multi-cultural concert.

Having studied banjo with masters including David Holt, Kirk Sutphin, Brad Leftwich, Ken Perlman, Mary Z. Cox, and Bob Carlin, Matthew leads banjo workshops and participates in **Banjo Seed**, an outreach program that fosters interest in old-time banjo and supports budding players.

Before embarking on the traditional folk music path, Matthew released two critically acclaimed CDs of his own roots-based compositions. His 2001 release, *A Walk in the Park*, was named **Album of the Year** in the **Florida Music Awards** and he was a nominee in the category of **Best Songwriter**.

His instrumental and vocal talents can be heard on dozens of commercially-available recordings by other worthy artists. In his lifetime he has performed or recorded a variety of musical styles such as classical, jazz, blues, folk, sacred, theater, pop, rock, and world music on instruments which include guitar, banjo, mountain dulcimer, violin, piano, clarinet, tuba, harmonica, bass guitar, drums, and percussion.

