

Lee Zimmerman

## MUSIC OF THE HEART

Lee Zimmerman is a Cellist / Vocalist / Songwriter / Luthier and Builder. A fourth generation Montana native, Lee lives on the Flathead Reservation near Flathead Lake in Western Montana.

Lee fell in love with the cello at the age of eight and was graced with an elegant woman childhood teacher who became a major artistic influence in his life. As a child he loved the study of classical music and the deep discipline the cello brought to his life but hungered for the the free improvisation and freshness missing in the classical world. Embarking upon a long journey of pop and rock music and a flirtation with many instruments and styles, he continued classical study at the University of Montana and Rocky Mountain College. He has played symphonic and chamber music and in numerous small ensembles and groups and does collaborations in performance art, dance, multimedia and film.

A hand injury in 1978 turned his focus to a 30 year career in artisan home building. A major life trauma brought him home to the cello in 1996 and the music of his soul. The cello became the vehicle of personal healing and

spiritual practice. The isolation of small town living and a strong sense of ensemble inspired him to become one of the pioneer cellist- singers and electronic loop composers.

His music today is an eclectic mix of classical technique, soaring improvisation, and a bit of shameless whimsy. Influenced by early music and chant to J.S. Bach and the courtly dances of 16th century Europe, to jazz and Astor Piazzolla's tango nuevo, to Bobby McFerrin and R.C. Nakai and cellists David Darling and Eugene Friesen. The song of cityscapes and the dreams and weather of Montana's vast landscape play major roles in his music.

His first teacher continues to inspire and guide him in the way of living the artist's life, whether it be building modern electric- acoustic cellos or living spaces or performing looped sound from cello and voice. Great gratitude to her and current teachers Eugene Friesen and Steven Katz.

His performance diversity has taken him from New York City to the straits of Southeast Alaska, Holland to Turkey to Bali, to Nashville and Austin. He has been featured at the Bumpershoot Festival, New Directions Cello Festival and the winter Cellobration at the University of E. Washington.