



The Kentucky Archaeology & Heritage Series
"Creelsboro and the Cumberland: A Living History"

The Music of Eli Bedel

Creelsboro and the Cumberland: A Living History features old-time music created for the documentary soundtrack by musician Eli Bedel. Working with the production team, Bedel researched traditional songs from the Appalachian region for use in historical sections of the documentary. He arranged and played fourteen old-time songs, as well as a series of short "mood" instrumentals for transitions in the documentary.

Eli Bedel played the fiddle, banjo, guitar, and dulcimer on the soundtrack, which was recorded by engineer Randy Campbell at KPG Creative in Cincinnati, Ohio. Several songs were "double" and "triple" tracked with Bedel playing different instruments. **Photo:** *Eli Bedel during a recording session for the soundtrack at KPG Creative.*



Tom Law, Project Director, Voyageur Media Group, Inc. says the documentary needed an old-time soundtrack to portray the kind of music that would have been heard by residents in the Creelsboro valley from the 1790s to the 1940s. "Eli Bedel delivered an incredible collection of beautiful, authentic songs drawn from his deep knowledge of old-time music from the region through time," says Tom Law. The companion website for the documentary features a list (with audio files) of the 14 old-time songs used in the soundtrack. *Song Profiles*, written by Bedel, provides information about the history and instrumentation of each song. A team of students from Fourthwall Youth Studios also produced a seven-minute, "behind-the-scenes" video about Bedel and his music. These materials may be downloaded for non-commercial research and educational purposes. **Photo:** *Randy Campbell and Eli Bedel working on final music mixes.*



Musician Background

Eli Bedel developed a passion for nature and music growing up in the western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Adams County, Ohio. His father, Chris Bedel, is the Preserve Director for the Edge of Appalachian Preserve System. His mother, Suzanne Chouteau, is an Art Professor at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Eli learned to play numerous instruments during his childhood, including fiddle, guitar, banjo and dulcimer, and percussive instruments such as the mouth bow, jaw harp and limber jack. Bedel says that in his youth, old-time music wasn't being played as much in Adams County, but his parents played a lot of it on the radio and on CDs. "Something about it drew me in," says Bedel. "It really evoked that rural kind of life; of being kind of isolated, but appreciating it and celebrating one's culture." Bedel also developed a passion for history, including the complexities and different styles of the old-time music he loved. "I tried to learn the history of the tune, too. I needed to know the players who had played it and the many different voices that have added to it over the years."

Eli Bedel graduated from Xavier University with a BA degree in Digital Innovation, Film and Television and a minor in History. While in college, he earned a fellowship to research and produce a documentary about the Ulster-Scots of Northern Ireland and their connection to Appalachian history and culture. Bedel also served as an intern at the Appalshop Appalachian Media Institute in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Eli lives in Cincinnati and plays around town with Zane Thompson as a member of The Old Souls String Band, which released its debut album in 2018.

<https://oldsoulsstringband.wixsite.com/music>