

# Larry Long

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM A REMARKABLE CAREER

**ROSA PARKS AND THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA BUS BOYCOTT DEDICATION OF THE ROSA PARKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY:** [communitycelebration.org/dedication-rosa-parks-library-and-museum](http://communitycelebration.org/dedication-rosa-parks-library-and-museum)

**I WILL BE YOUR FRIEND:** Educational packets that were distributed to over 200,000 teachers, students and schools, produced by Long and [tolerance.org](http://tolerance.org). It won a Parents' Choice Award in 2003. [www.tolerance.org/teach/resources/your\\_friend.jsp](http://www.tolerance.org/teach/resources/your_friend.jsp)

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER REVIVAL:** With his voice and guitar, Larry organized communities from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to Dubuque, Iowa. Larry produced over 20 river festivals, hauled hundreds of tons of trash out of the river with community volunteers along the upper Mississippi River, worked with Governor Perpich to create the "clean rivers" movement in Minnesota, and traveled the length of the Mississippi River with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater and the National Audubon Society.

In October of 2000, towns along 483 miles of the Mississippi River honored, celebrated and taught about the river, its habitat and its communities. Along the way, Larry Long wrote 48 verses with local children to his song "I Love the Mississippi River." [www.audubon.org/campaign/umr/](http://www.audubon.org/campaign/umr/)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Larry traveled in 2000 to South Africa through a grant from the U.S. State Department. While there, Larry held a collective writing workshop with students, migrant workers and union stewards, and worked with youth choirs from the townships of St. Wendolin's and Chester, and held two performances at the Awesome Africa Festival at the Swanimi Reserve. Awesome Africa features popular and traditional singers throughout the continent of Africa.

**RUSSIA:** Larry toured Kris Kristofferson and others in Russia near the end of the Cold War.

**SOUTH AMERICA:** In 1993 Larry performed throughout the country of Brazil as a cultural ambassador through the United States Consulate.

**SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE:** Larry was not only friends with Paul and Sheila (and wrote one of their campaign songs) but has also been an integral part of the play Wellstone! which was critically acclaimed locally.

**PETE SEEGER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN:** All the musical sons and daughter of Seeger on the bill will honor the champion of peace and the environment. May 3, 2009.

**WOODY GUTHRIE FESTIVAL 2009:** Larry "brought Woody home" to Okemah, Okla., by creating the first Woody Guthrie Festival. His work with the kids in Okemah helped to resurrect Woody's legacy and get townsfolk to take another, softer look at Guthrie's work and impact. Long returned to perform in July 2009, 20 years after bringing Woody home.

Okemah City Council unanimously approved that *Okemah Waltz* become the official song of Okemah, Oklahoma on November 26, 2012, Woody Guthrie's Centennial year, Larry Long collectively wrote *Okemah Waltz* with children from Okemah, Oklahoma in 1986.

**AMERICA'S OLD TIME MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE IN 2014.**

**FOR PETE'S SAKE: CELEBRATING PETE SEEGER'S 95TH BIRTHDAY:** Larry produced a sold-out celebration for what would have been Pete Seeger's 95th birthday at the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, MN. The event was recorded by Minnesota Public Radio and broadcast internationally. Members of the Seeger family attended and were honored.

**LARRY LONG PRESENTS AMERICAN ROOTS REVUE:** Receives Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Grant to take American Roots Revue into outstate Minnesota communities for "forgotten populations and audiences": and related community outreach activities in partnership with homeless shelters, incarceration facilities; community and veterans organizations.

**RECIPIENT OF A CULTURAL LEGACY GRANT** from the Minnesota Historical Society to create an archive of an extensive collection of materials that documents the life work of Larry Long.

# Larry Long

## RESUMÉ

**BORN** 1951, Des Moines, Iowa

**LIVES** in Minneapolis, MN.

**EDUCATION** Road Scholar

*All of the recordings and projects listed below were written, performed, and produced by Larry Long, unless otherwise noted.*

## SELECTED TROUBADOUR WORKS

- 1992 *The Psalms*, compact disc, Stellar. Produced by Larry Long. Solo guitar and vocals. Featuring original works inspired by the Tehillim/The Book of Psalms (Hebrew), King James, and the Jerusalem translations of the Psalms.
- 1993 *Troubadour*, compact disc, Flying Fish Records. Featuring live concert and field recordings from throughout the United States.

## FOR THE FAMILY FARMER

- 1977 “Pope County Blues,” written for the Minnesota power line resistance.
- 1978 Received the Key to the City from Columbia, Tennessee.  
Larry organized Tennessee farmers into selling their homegrown produce in church parking lots directly to consumers. While working with local farmers he sang daily for seniors through the Meals on Wheels program.
- 1979 Troubadour for farmer tractorcade to Washington, D.C. Larry documented the farmers’ journey to our nation’s capitol for fair prices through taped interviews, and photography. He produced a thirty-minute slide show with an audio track mixing spoken word with traditional and original music. This slide show traveled all across the United States. Portions of which are archived in the Library of Congress.
- 1995 *Living In A Rich Man’s World*, compact disc, Atomic Theory Recordings. Anthology of Larry’s work from 1976 - 1995.

## FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

- 1981-90 Larry founded the Mississippi River Revival, a campaign to clean up the Mississippi River. With his voice and guitar Larry organized communities from the headwaters at Lake Itasca to Dubuque, Iowa. Through this period Larry produced over twenty river festivals, hauled hundreds of tons of trash out of the river with community volunteers along the upper Mississippi River, worked with Governor Perish to create the “clean rivers” movement in Minnesota, and traveled the length of the Mississippi River with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theater.

## FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

- 1981 Troubadour with Run For Freedom. Larry wrote songs with Lakota children while on a spiritual run across the state of South Dakota, which was to have culminated in Sioux Falls. Before the run was completed, a young girl, Wambli’ Waken Wi (Kimberly Rose Means) was struck and killed by a drunk driver, who happened to be white. He was later freed on a misdemeanor charge. One of the songs Larry wrote

with the children was sung by the children at Kimberly's funeral in Rosebud, South Dakota. Today, there is a yearly run to Sioux Falls in her honor.

- 1984 *Run For Freedom*, album, Flying Fish Records. Produced by Marian Moore.
- 1987 *Sweet Thunder*, album, Flying Fish Records. Produced by Larry Long & Billy Peterson. This collection includes the song, "Water In The Rain", written with the Prairie Island Dakota community about the largest mass hanging in U.S. history. "Water In The Rain" is the first intentional work of Larry's that integrates the spoken word with traditional and non-traditional music beds. Within the song; Dakota Elder, Amos Owen, prays for the survival his people and then names the 38 Dakota who were hung in Mankato by Lincoln's decree in 1862.

## FOR THE PEACE MOVEMENT

- 1986-88 Troubadour for Soviet-American Peace Cruises on the Mississippi and Volga Rivers. Larry traveled the lengths of the Mississippi and Volga Rivers on the Delta Queen and the Maxim Gorky in the days of Perestroika. On these peace voyages there were Soviet Cosmonauts, Navy Admirals, clergy, factory workers, students, professors, and members of government from both the United States and the former Soviet Union. Thousands of people greeted the "Soviet American Peace Cruise" at each port. Larry along with artists from the late Soviet Union performed at every stop. This Soviet American Peace Cruise was the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

## FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

- 1988-2000 Larry developed Elder's Wisdom, Children's Song™, an intergenerational and interdisciplinary approach to building community through the arts in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Alabama, South Dakota, Nebraska, Georgia, Arizona, and Tennessee.
- During this period Larry worked in over forty-two communities, producing over forty-two community celebrations, writing 168 with the youth & elders of America, and producing and releasing sixteen Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song cassettes to honor specific local communities.
- 1988 Larry organized the first hometown tribute for Woody Guthrie in Okemah, Oklahoma.
- Larry produced and recorded this celebration with teachers and students from Oklahoma at the Crystal Theater, where Woody performed as a child.
- 1989 *It Takes a Lot of People* (a tribute to Woody Guthrie), compact disc, Flying Fish Records.
- 1995 *Hauling Freight, No Fences*, documentary/music video. Produced by Barry Kimm and Larry Long. This fifteen-minute doc/music video documents the life of Gerald Johanneck, a truck driver. Directed by Barry Kimm and narrated by students from Wabasso, Minnesota. Featuring the song, "Hauling Freight, No Fences", written and performed by Larry Long with the community of Wabasso.
- Bush Artist Fellowship Recipient, Bush Foundation
- 1997 *Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*, compact disc, Smithsonian Folkways. Featuring Larry Long with the Youth & Elders' of Rural Alabama. Produced in collaboration with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, University of Alabama. Recording engineer, producer, recording artist, coordinator and originator of concept: Larry Long
- Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* features select field recordings of oral history, traditional secular and spiritual music, storytelling and original works by Larry Long and the youth of rural Alabama. The content of this recording takes you from the Appalachian foothills to the black belt, from the coalmines to the cotton fields, from slavery to freedom. *Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song* received the Parents' Choice Award and was nominated for consideration into the Grammys.

- 1999 *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Guidebook*, 60 pages, SingOut! Written by Larry Long & Jim Fanning. Edited by Laura Caldwell Anderson. Photography by Andrew Goetz. Project of PACERS Small Schools Cooperative and Community Celebration of Place
- The booklet explains why it is important to allow both joyous and difficult subjects to emerge through the stories of elders and students alike: Children can deal with and absorb the most difficult subjects. Through the process a community is built. The universal is found in the particular. And miracles do happen!
- 2000 *Well May The World Go*, compact disc, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. Featuring the life stories in song and spoken word from both the ancient and recent immigrant cultures of the United States, including: Hmong, Somalia, Mexican, Irish, German and Anishinabe (Ojibwa). All songs written and performed by Larry Long, except for "Well May The World Go," by Pete Seeger. Other musicians assisting Larry on this recording include: Pete Seeger, Debbie Duncan, Donna Pena, Northfield Children's Choir, Billy Peterson, Signature, Annie Humphrey, Esther Godinez, See Moue, Peter Ostroushko, John Morrow, and Bo Ramsey. Recipient of the Leadership In Neighborhood Fellowship, St. Paul Companies

## FOR THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY

- 2000–2016 The demand for Long's work sparked the creation of a non-profit organization, Community Celebration of Place. Community Celebration of Place works with communities to use music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children and elders, and people of different backgrounds — economic, faith, racial, and cultural — to honor and celebrate our commonalities and differences through a program entitled, Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song.
- 2001 Recipient of the Pope John XXIII Award, Viterbo University
- 2002 Recipient of the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award, Reclaiming Youth International
- 2004 Recipient of the First Annual Sustainability Award, Alliance for Sustainability. Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place worked in partnership with the Elk River School District to honor twenty elders long established and recently arrived in five of their elementary schools through Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song.
- 2004–2005 Eden Prairie Schools hosted a special artist-in-residency with Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place. Through Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song five elementary schools celebrated the lives of 21 elders' influential members of their community were honored as elders by the students and families. The elders were from both the new and older immigrant communities in addition to the original people of Minnesota.
- 2005–2015 Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place entered into a partnership with the West Metro Education Program (WMEP) to integrate the Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song process into the curriculum of their eleven urban and suburban school districts in the Minneapolis metropolitan area. The mission of WMEP is to promote student success and community acceptance of differences by providing opportunities for students, families and staff from diverse backgrounds to learn from and with each other.
- 2007 Recipient of the 2007 Award for Contributions of Music in the Struggle for Justice and Peace. Popular Education.
- 2008 In partnership with the Eden Prairie Schools Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place published an online Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Songbook entitled *Be Kind To All That Lives*. Featuring photographs, one-page narratives, and songs honoring 21 members of the Eden Prairie community.
- Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place published an online Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song Songbook entitled *Just Be Who You Are*. Featuring photographs, one-page narratives, and songs honoring 58 Minnesota elders, both long established and newly arrived.

- 2009** Larry Long releases sound recording, Don't Stand Still, in partnership with Community Celebration of Place on Cereus Records. Featuring fourteen original works by Larry Long, plus songs collectively written with communities throughout the United States. Proceeds from the sale of this recording benefit Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song (EWCS), a core program of Community Celebration of Place.
- 2009-2016** Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place create a new program entitled Young Publishers. Books, written and illustrated by students, tell the stories shared by elders of many cultures. They teach our children the varied and multi-colored stories of our neighbors while expanding their writing, art and social studies skills. Over twenty books have been published and available for FREE online.
- 2014-2022** Larry Long presents For Pete's Sake: Celebrating Pete Seeger's 95th Birthday at a sold-out concert held at the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota on May 3, 2014. Governor Mark Dayton declared it Pete Seeger Day in Minnesota. All narrations were originally spoken, compiled, or written by Pete Seeger. All songs featured were popularized or written by Pete Seeger with the exception of original works by Larry Long, Brittany Delaney, and Waubanewquay Day. All proceeds: Children's Defense Fund Freedom School in South Minneapolis. Recorded and aired through Radio Heartland, 89.3 The Current, radioheartland.org.

Larry Long & Community Celebration of Place receive a Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Grant to take "American Roots Revue" into outstate Minnesota communities for 'forgotten populations and audiences': and related community outreach activities in partnership with homeless shelters, incarceration facilities; community and veterans organizations.

American Roots Revue celebrates in story and song the many nations of people who call this country home. The American Roots Revue works from the core of America's richest musical traditions of gospel, folk, blues, and R&B. Backed by some of the finest musicians making music across the world today.

Community Celebration of Place (501 C3) is the recipient of a Cultural Legacy grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to create an archive of an extensive collection of materials that documents the lifetime work Larry Long.