

Traditional American Music:
Focus on Coal Mining Songs and Stories
An Evening with Jay Smar
Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 7:00 pm
Ruth Adams 001
Douglass Campus, Rutgers University

From the coal mining region of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Jay Smar will perform at Rutgers, armed with two guitars, baritone vocals, claw-hammer banjo, with fiddling, singing and flat-footin' (a form of clog-dancing). Smar serves his audience an “acoustic buffet” of traditional American and original folk, old-time mountain music, bluegrass, and gospel tunes, as well as coal mining songs and stories. Smar explains the origins of coal mining folklore—the isolation of the mining communities, a semi-primitive plane of living, harsh working conditions, illiteracy, the need for amusement, and folk imagination.

In the last five years, Jay Smar has toured Scotland twice, performed at the Philadelphia Folk Festival twice, recorded music for the Welsh BBC movie “The Welsh in America” and has been selected by the Pennsylvania Performing Arts on tour to be on their roster.