Music serves as the common thread which binds all of Gypsy Cowbelle’s life experiences. As a professional performing artist her music stems from the ‘folk’ process of learning by word-of-mouth and example, rather than through formal and academic means. Her teachers ranged from street musicians in New Orleans to finger-picking wizards in the Appalachian Mountains and from old-time banjo fiddlers in the Pacific Northwest to cowboys and homesteaders in the Wyoming mountains. The result is her signature “Genuine Cow Billy” music. For twenty years, Gypsy strived to improve her musical expression though diverse performances and compositions. Her most recent projects include: *Dawn in the Night* a unique and compelling portrayal of Amelia Earhart, staged in 1934 and *Trails West* which celebrates the era following the Civil War.

Through interactive workshops, she is helping others create their own instruments and music, as well as teaching traditional folk, country and cowboy tunes to the next generation. Using music as a platform, Gypsy aspires to unite audiences, reveal history, evoke creative thought, promote musical expressions, celebrate universal themes and depict characters found along a road less travelled. Most important, she strives to remain “Nothing Fancy but Guaranteed Authentic!”

**Community Workshops**

**Homespun Instruments**: an interactive program geared for children but great fun for all ages. Participants join in on traditional tunes, playing a variety of “household” instruments ~ from washtubs and scrub boards to spoons and saws, and every shaker, bell and drum in between. The focus is on the joy and creativity of making music, resourcefulness and group dynamics.

**The Essentials of Songwriting**: encourages and assists students of all ages as they develop songwriting skills and hone lyricism. Focusing on the creative process and the artistic use of language, this program is an excellent introduction to songwriting.

**Modern Day Homesteader**: documentary and/or concert reflecting the homesteader way of life and American history between 1850-1940.

**Mares Tales**: a concert spotlighting America’s leading ladies

**Dawn in the Night**: A captivating Chautauqua –style portrayal of Amelia Earhart, with a stage set in 1934.