

**Master 12-string guitarist to give recital Nov. 5 at AU**  
10/30/00

Neil Jacobs, a 12-string acoustic guitar player who commands as many styles as an orchestra, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday (Nov. 5) in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University campus. Jacobs has performed twice in Alfred with the American Gypsy trio, but this recital, which is free and open to the public, is his first solo appearance. His style covers the spectrum of music, including types as diverse as Gypsy, Balkan, jazz, and finger-style guitar. A self-taught musician, Jacobs draws inspiration from his travels. Most recently he has focused on Gypsy music of Eastern Europe and Balkan folk music. After the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, Jacobs traveled throughout Eastern Europe with a backpack and two guitars. He performed for Polish schoolchildren in Olstyn, in Prague clubs and Italian villas, and in war-torn Zagreb, Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia. He became absorbed in the music of the Gypsies, and in 1992 the American Balkan music and dance ensemble Zivili invited him to compose and arrange Gypsy music. He became proficient at authentic folk instruments and at the same time, adapted rarely-heard Gypsy music to the guitar. After completing his third CD, "American Gypsy," Jacobs toured Washington, D.C., Italy, and the Czech Republic, and accompanied Zivili at UNESCO's Balkan Youth Reconciliation Seminar in Bulgaria. His fourth CD is scheduled for December release.