

# CHIC STREET MAN

**Art Form:** Music

**Style:** Jazzy Blues/Folk

**Culture:** Universal

## MEET THE ARTIST:

**Chic Street Man** is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Cruz, with a B.S. Degree in Psychology. He served as head of the department in Psychodrama at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula in Carmel, California; as executive Director of a Fair Housing Program in Hayward, CA; and the instructor of “The Creative Process” at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Motivated by a desire to pursue a career in music, Chic traveled to Paris, where he recorded an album titled “Chic Street Man – Growing Up.” In it he talks about some of the complexities of young people growing up in America today. He toured Europe and settled in Santa Barbara where he founded “Chic Street Man’s School of Performing Arts.” From 1987 – 1989, Chic served as artistic director of a children’s cultural exchange program, “Peace Child,” in which 15 U.S. children toured the Soviet Union and acted in plays with their Soviet counterparts. During 1990 Chic conducted a drama workshop at Rutgers University and performed in a New York Stage Production of “Spunk” (based on tales by Zora Neale Thurston). He also composed the music for this off-broadway production. In 1998 Chic starred in the Mark Taper Forum production of “Lost Highway”, the story of Hank Williams. In 2002 he released “Lullablues.”

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Chic Street Man considers himself to be a musical ambassador for peace and human rights. He uses his guitar, voice and body as his instruments, creating an atmosphere of trust and encouraging group participation with his songs. Through his songs, he explores his love for people, music and the planet. Chic focuses on tunes which allow the audience to connect to the world around them, and to see how they themselves fit in. He believes that it’s “involvement that creates understanding, and understanding that promotes growth.” Using music as his medium, Chic Street Man shows us how much better the world is when we listen, speak and sing in unity.

Photo by Neil Ricklen



## PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

More and more studies point to the benefits that can be gained from listening to, studying and participating in the creation of music. *The California State Visual and Performing Arts Framework* states the case very well:

*Existing in every culture and generation, music embodies the distinctly human need to organize sounds to express the dimensions of human feeling. ...Music provides opportunities for success and engages the imagination of students who may have difficulty with other aspects of the curriculum. The art of music inspires students to become sensitive listeners, able to make aesthetic judgments and appreciate the essential nature of music.*

A good song, then, provides more than just a pleasant experience. It is a wonderful way to communicate our ideas, to share our feelings, thoughts, and emotions. Chic Street Man believes that all people have the ability and desire to communicate, and that music provides the perfect medium for positive and encouraging messages. Through example, his performance stimulates self-expression, confidence and creativity.

Music comes in many forms; each style, however, is still driven and shaped by dreams, visions, emotions and ideas. These ideas are shared through melody, harmony, orchestration and instrumentation of each piece of music.

The styles of music explored in the performance by Chic Street Man have emerged from cultural traditions that for the most part can be traced to Africa. In the ancient tradition of storytelling, the idea is not just to tell a tale, but also to use the accompanying music and story to pass on the value of living in harmony, the importance of an honorable life, the value in respecting, caring and encouraging the people who surround us.

This same tradition continues today in Chic’s music, which carries forward the idea that songs and the stories they tell can make you laugh, think or feel better inside. Ultimately, they can even inspire you to new heights.

