

## **Crazy Chase Comes to Chandler March 2**

**Allen Church** brings his one-man presentation of **“The Return of Crazy Chase” to the Esther Mesh Room in Chandler’s Upper Gallery** in Randolph, Vermont on **Friday March 2 at 7:30 PM**. Through stories, traditional fiddle tunes and original songs, Church brings to life this legendary dance hall fiddler and colorful Vermont character.

The show brilliantly and hilariously tells the story of one of Vermont’s least-known and most fascinating characters. Author Howard Frank Mosher reflects, “At a time when ‘the Village was the world’ for most Vermonters, Alfred ‘Crazy’ Chase made his life into a work of art. Cross-dresser, musical savant, entertainer, and piano tuner extraordinaire, Chase was literally one in a million.”

Church’s presentation honors northeast fiddling and the independent spirit of both Crazy Chase and his home state of Vermont. Church conducted dozens of interviews, gathering stories about Crazy that inspired the show. Through this oral history, fiddle tunes and original songs, he reflects on a time when life was a little bit slower and communities were more tightly knit.

Vermont’s rich fiddling tradition was once an important thread in the social fabric. Even as recently as the mid-1900s, folks still gathered for “kitchen tunks” and barn dances as a way to socialize and dance. Fiddle tunes reflecting the state’s French Canadian heritage and its ties to Scotland, England and Ireland took center stage. The music was celebratory, toe-tapping, and infectious, and an essential ingredient of these events.

An important part of Vermont’s identity is its inclination toward tolerance. Even when talking about hot-button topics such as politics or choices in lifestyle, we comprise a varied and accepting state. True conservative values co-exist with more publicized liberal ones. Church theorizes that Vermont’s tendency toward inclusion has a lot to do with Vermont’s rural nature, its climate and celebration of individuality.

“Start asking around and you’ll discover that characters were found in every village. I don’t know if it rises to the level of cultural history, but it sure made life more colorful to have these eccentric individuals around. You can’t help feeling that Crazy’s contribution as musician and character added much to the lives he touched.”

Howard Frank Mosher has strong praise for this presentation. “With great insight, humor and empathy, Mr. Church catches perfectly the wonderful talent, strangeness, and humanity of one of Vermont’s last self-styled characters. ‘The Return of Crazy Chase’ abounds with music, laughter, anecdotes, and history. It’s like nothing I’ve ever seen before.”

**Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 day of show.** Seating is limited for this performance. Discounted advance tickets can be purchased through the Chandler Box Office by calling 802-728-6464. If available, tickets will also be available at the door on Friday March 2. A cash bar will be available. The performance space is wheelchair accessible.