

international folk festivals. As a member of the Arkansas Arts on Tour roster as Professor Strings he gives workshops in Arkansas public schools on the Roots of Traditional Ozark Music in Contemporary Songs. Currently living in Austin, TX Phil is a co-producer, film *Gospel, Biscuits & Gravy* Co-producer and presenter for “*Riders on the Orphan Train*” public program in Texas. He is the 2007 recipient of the Arkansas Arts Council Award for Music Composition.

## **Track Record**

Since 1998, *Riders on the Orphan Train* has been presented in over 500 museums, libraries and schools in Arkansas, Texas and Arizona. Currently, we are concentrating on underserved areas in Texas with funding from Humanities Texas. We have also been funded by the Arkansas Humanities Council, The Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. We participated in Arkansas Heritage Month, Homeward Bound: A Migration Story in 2000 and presented In-Service Teacher Training, Kerrville Folk Festival, Kerrville, Texas in 2005 and 2006.

## **Testimonials**

*“...the program far exceeded any expectations I may have had, as did the community’s response...this was by far the most well-attended program the library has ever offered....everyone who attended was moved, educated and entertained...your program truly made an impact on our community.*

*--Cecilia Hurt Barham, Decatur Public Library, Decatur, TX*

Visit our web site for more information.  
[www.ridersontheorphantrain.org](http://www.ridersontheorphantrain.org)

# **Riders on the Orphan Train**



## **Multi-media programs**

Literature/storytelling  
Live music  
Film/video

## **Alison Moore & Phil Lancaster**

351 Cowpoke Canyon, Driftwood, TX 78619  
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## Our mission

We are dedicated to providing a contemporary, multi-media format with which to tell the stories of unsung heroes and ordinary people.

Our purpose is to inform, entertain, and move audiences of all ages with a humanities-based program to bring awareness to little-known chapters in history.

## Our program

Between 1854 and 1929 over 200,000 orphans and unwanted children were taken out of New York City and given away at train stations across America. The last train came to Sulphur Springs, Texas in 1929. Originally organized by minister Charles Loring Brace to rid New York of homeless street children and provide them with an opportunity to find new homes in the developing Midwest, this nearly eighty year experiment in child migration is filled with horror stories and happy endings. Through literature, music, archival photographs, film interviews, informal lecture and audience discussion this virtually untold chapter in American history comes alive

### Riders on the Orphan Train

Song: *Lost Little Children* with video backdrop (O'Brien/Williams)

Song: *Riders on the Orphan Train* with video backdrop (Alison Moore)

Video Interviews with surviving Orphan Train Riders

Dramatic reading: *Riders on the Orphan Train* by Alison Moore  
(from the novel-in-progress)

Song: *Ezra's Lullaby* (Phil Lancaster)

Informal discussion on the history of the Orphan Train movement.

Audience Q&A

Song: *Rider on an Orphan Train* (Massengill)

This program is designed for **General Audiences**. 1 ½ hr. including Q&A.  
(50 min. without discussion and Q&A)

## The presenters

### Alison Moore, *Humanities Scholar*

Alison Moore, MFA, is a former Assistant Professor of English/Creative Writing in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Arizona and a current Humanities Scholar in Texas. She lives in Austin and is completing a novel on the Orphan Trains with a grant from the Texas Institute of Letters and the Dobie/Paisano Foundation of the University of Texas at Austin. She has developed public outreach programs for the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. and for ArtsReach, a Native American literacy project in Southern Arizona. She is the author of three books, a new collection of short stories entitled *The Middle of Elsewhere* (Phoenix International/University of Arkansas Press 2006), *Small Spaces between Emergencies* (Mercury House, 1992) one of the Notable Books of 1993 chosen by The American Library Association, and a novel, *Synonym for Love* (Mercury House 1995). She received a National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Fellowship in 1993, an Arizona Commission on the Arts Fiction Fellowship in 1998, an Arkansas Arts Council Poetry Fellowship in 2002, and an Arkansas Community Foundation/Bridge Fund grant in 2003 for development of teaching history in innovative ways. In 2004 she received the Katherine Ann Porter Prize for Fiction.

### Phil Lancaster, *Presenter/Audio-Visual Technician*

Arkansas Arts on Tour musician Phil Lancaster (Professor Strings) was born in Texarkana and studied art and music at L'Ecole De Beaux Arts in Angers, France. He became a member of a bluegrass band that traveled and played throughout France and produced an album entitled "Bluegrass Oldies Ltd./Traveling Show." He also worked as a stage theatre technician for La Courseive Theatre Nationale in La Rochelle, France. After returning to the U.S. he met three Arkansas musicians and the acoustic quartet "Still on the Hill" was formed in Fayetteville. They released their first CD in 1997, the second in 2000. The group performed at national and