

Joseph H. Burnett
Doctor of Performing Arts

Joseph Henry “T Bone” Burnett is a musician, songwriter, and record producer who is internationally recognized for his accomplishments in the arts, his philanthropy, and his tireless efforts in preserving American vernacular music.

Born in St. Louis, he grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, where he first began making records in 1965. His big break came in 1975, when he was asked by Bob Dylan to play guitar in his band on the now-legendary Rolling Thunder Revue tour. From that experience T Bone went on to form his own band and record and produce group and solo albums. His music has been described as “highly literate [and] infused with a strong underlying morality.” His greatest public recognition started with the soundtrack he created for the 2000 film “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” This film’s music won two Grammy awards and received great critical and popular acclaim. It has also been credited with sparking a revival of old time country music. Over the course of his career he has been responsible for the evocative soundtracks of 26 films including “Cold Mountain,” “Walk the Line,” “Crazy Heart,” “Inside Llewyn Davis,” and “The Hunger Games.”

He has also been a vocal, public, and generous supporter of music and arts education in public schools. In 2012 he organized a concert tour to raise funds for the Participant Foundation, whose mission is to advance this cause.