



# Hearing a Master's Voice

The spools of wire below contain the only known live recording of the legendary folk singer Woody Guthrie. A mathematician, Kevin Short, was part of a team that used signal processing techniques associated with chaotic music compression to recapture the live performance, which was often completely unintelligible. The modern techniques employed, instead of resulting in a cold, digital output, actually retained the original concert's warmth and depth. As a result, Short and the team received a Grammy<sup>®</sup> Award for their remarkable restoration of the recording.

**For More Information:** "The Grammy in Mathematics," Julie J. Rehmeyer, *Science News Online*, February 9, 2008.



Photograph by Bradly Brown, courtesy of The Woody Guthrie Archives, [www.woodyguthrie.org](http://www.woodyguthrie.org).



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