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Valley Folk Music

Presents Folk Singer

Debra Cowan

Feb 18, 2012

Debra Cowan's captivating warm alto carries each of her carefully-chosen folk songs with such emotion, you'll forget that they were written by others. Her newest release, *Fond Desire Farewell*, takes contemporary and time-honored public domain songs, but puts them in modern settings.

Idolizing Julie Andrews while a young girl, she then discovered Jethro Tull and Steeleye Span in her teens. Escaping her small Midwestern town at 21, she ended up in northern California (randomly chosen by the toss of a dart) where she attended college, sang in bars, and eventually found work as a math teacher. Continuing her discovery of folk music led her to English and Scottish singers like Sandy Denny and Ray Fisher. While she started performing 35 years ago, she began touring in 1998, with frequent stops in the US and UK, from folk clubs to festivals, eventually becoming the full-time folk singer she is today, bridging the old and new with her refreshing stage presence.

In 2011, Cowan sang the part of *Marilyn* from Si Kahn's musical production "Silver Spoon". She has performed in many prestigious UK venues and for six months in the late 90's, held a residency at Sandy Bell's Bar, Edinburgh's premier folk music pub, following in the footsteps of Dick Gaughan and Aly Bain. She was a formal showcase artist at several International and Regional Folk Alliance Conferences and twice performed on the nationally syndicated live radio show *Folkstage* (2002), hosted by Rich Warren and *River City Folk* (2008) hosted by Tom May. Her earlier recordings *Dad's Dinner Pail* and *Other Songs from the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection* and *The Long Grey Line* brought her praise from both the US and abroad. In 2006 her version of "Walloping Window Blind" was featured in *SingOut!* magazine and also that year, her rendition of Richard Thompson's "Has He Got a Friend For Me" was included in the Free-Reed Records box set *RT-The Life and Times of Richard Thompson*.



"She is blessed with a beautiful voice and a deep appreciation for the tradition....each song is a new story to be shared and experienced."

- Ron Olesko, host "Traditions",
WFDU, Teaneck, NJ

All 2012 concerts begin at 7:30 PM at 155 Cedar St, Corning, NY
Question? www.ValleyFolk.org info@valleyfolk.org (607) 962-4461
Admission: \$15 on-the-door only cash or checks;
half price FT students and disabled people; 14 & under free w/adult.
Pre-concert acoustic jam session begins at 6 in the gallery on concert nights.

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