



About Debra Cowan

From the minute she begins to sing, Debra Cowan grabs her audience and doesn't let go. Her ability to communicate the story within the song is rare; her rich voice conjures images of stony-grey Celtic castles, green and rolling English landscapes, and humorous American urban scenes. She is as comfortable with a contemporary song as she is with a traditional one, and it was her love of songs from the British Isles that led her to search out the connections with their North American descendants and that brought her to live in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1997. Almost ten years later, now based near Worcester, Massachusetts, Debra tours extensively in North America and the United Kingdom.



About Michael DeLalla

In a performing and recording career of more than two decades, guitarist and composer Michael DeLalla has brought his delicious brew of traditional influences and classical, jazz, Celtic and folk stylings into the forefront of acoustic music. Michael performs as a solo artist and as a member of the acclaimed traditional Celtic trio The Unfortunate Rakes. His solo concerts feature his original compositions and arrangements of traditional tunes that showcase his particular virtuosity, punctuated by his wry, sometimes irreverent observations of the experiences that are behind the pieces.



Michael DeLalla and Debra Cowan in a recent performance in New Haven, CT

For Booking and Other Information:

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Debra Cowan is listed on the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Touring Roster

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Falling Mountain Music
presents

Dad's Dinner Pail

and Other Songs From the
Helen Hartness Flanders
Collection

A touring concert program
featuring singer

Debra Cowan

and guitarist/composer

Michael DeLalla

Flanders Concert Program

Falling Mountain Music recording artists Debra Cowan and Michael DeLalla have teamed up to present a delightful concert program of songs from the Helen Hartness Flanders Ballad Collection. This program complements Debra Cowan's newest Falling Mountain Compact Disc recording, "Dad's Dinner Pail and Other Songs From the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection", released in August 2005.

The Flanders Concert Program is an engaging presentation consisting of:

- Two 45-50 minute sets of stories and songs woven together from this captivating New England collection
- Informative and fascinating descriptions about the songs themselves, and the source singers who first gave these songs to Mrs. Flanders
- Humorous anecdotes surrounding Debra's and Michael's own experiences in working with the Flanders Collection.

Debra Cowan "Meets" Helen Hartness Flanders

Helen Hartness Flanders, the wife of Vermont Senator (US) Ralph Flanders, was a published poet and someone who felt strongly about preserving musical traditions. In 1930 she got involved with song collecting and over the next 30 years, she and her assistants traveled throughout New England collecting, recording, and transcribing thousands of folk songs from people eager (and some not so eager) to sing them.

In 2002, Mrs. Flanders' granddaughter, Nancy-Jean Ballard, approached Debra Cowan about recording songs from the Collection. Throughout 2002 and 2003 Debra spent many hours in front of reel-to-reel and cassette tape machines at the Library of Congress and Middlebury College traveling back some 60+ years listening to Mrs. Flanders' singers come alive once more.

Not long after meeting Nancy-Jean, Debra was in a Boston used book store and saw a red book on the shelf titled "The World's Earliest Music". She took it off the shelf and looked inside the front cover. There in blue ink was an inscription that read:

"With cordial greetings each time you open the book,
Helen Hartness Flanders"

About the CD "Dad's Dinner Pail"

Debra Cowan's 2005 release, "Dad's Dinner Pail and Other Songs From the Helen Hartness Flanders Collection", is a captivating alliance of new and old. Co-produced with composer/guitarist Michael DeLalla and released on the Falling Mountain Music label, Dad's Dinner Pail offers eleven traditional songs from the Flanders Song Collection that feature a dance between Michael's exquisite guitar settings and Debra's elegant vocals. Dad's Dinner Pail also features Falling Mountain Music artists Tabby Finch (Bog Wanderers) on hammered dulcimer and accordion, Chas Fowler (Unfortunate Rakes) on whistle, Joe DeZarn (Bog Wanderers) on fiddle, Ralph Gordon on cello and bass and acclaimed singer John Roberts (Roberts and Barrand, Nowell Sing We Clear) lending his voice to two hymns, "Fearless In the Fire" and "Star In the East". Other highlights include Michael's beautiful guitar arrangements in songs such as "Bold Richard" and Debra's glorious vocals nested in three part harmony on "Poor Soldier".