

LUI COLLINS - BIO

Folk singer/songwriter Lui Collins has been performing, writing and recording for over 35 years, earning international acclaim for her music. A native Vermonter, Collins' early music education included classical studies on piano, violin and French horn, and a music theory major at the University of Connecticut. While continuing to study music in her last year, she earned her degree in sociology and got her folk music feet wet in the bars and restaurants of northeast Connecticut. Collins then devoted herself full-time to music, ultimately establishing herself in the folk community in the late seventies and early eighties with the release of her early Philo and Green Linnet recordings, Made in New England, Baptism of Fire, and There's a Light.

Collins founded her own label, Molly Gamblin Music, in 1993, with the release of her 4th CD, Moondancer, followed by North of Mars, for children, in 1995. Collins now has 8 solo CD's to her credit, the most recent, Closer, released in 2006 on the Waterbug Records label. Her collection of poetry, Moon of Ripe Berries, published in 2001, is now in its third printing.

The Boston Globe dubs Collins "one of New England's first and brightest stars," and Sing Out! Magazine calls her "incomparable." Renowned guitarist Dave van Ronk called her "one of the best guitarist-arrangers I have heard in years." Michael Devlin of Music Matters Review writes: "... there are relatively few artists who are bringing a traditional sensibility to modern songwriting, and in the process creating new traditional music. Lui Collins is among the barefoot royalty of this group..."

An accomplished vocalist, guitarist, and banjo player, Collins has until recently geared most of her recordings toward the "grown-ups" who have frequented her concerts on the folk circuit. But alongside that work, Collins has been performing for and working with children since her own three were young, including collaborations with the Grumbling Gryphons Children's Theater in 1992 and 1993. In 1997 she relocated to western Massachusetts, where she has gradually shifted the focus of her work from touring to teaching in her community. In 2002, Collins trained with early childhood music program Music Together of Princeton, NJ, and founded Hilltown Music Together. In 2007 Collins began research and development of an educational program, Kids' Jam, for 5-7 year-olds and their families. She has since written and adapted music for a two-year cycle of 8 seasonal collections, which she has co-produced and recorded with multi-instrumentalist Anand Nayak. In her spare time, she's been studying bossa nova guitar to accompany the songs she fell in love with when living in Brazil in the late 60's.

Collins's concerts are an expression of the complex and insightful woman she is: wise elder and whimsical spirit, music theory buff and old time banjo player. Mother, grandmother, woods walker, writer, teacher... somehow all these parts and more emerge in her concerts as she engages the audience in an intimate dialogue of song and poem, voice, guitar and banjo. Andrew Calhoun of Waterbug Records says, "Lui Collins sings the way people did a great long time ago, before most of us forgot how to breathe." And as guitarist/folksinger/songwriter Geoff Bartley says, "Lui's got the juju!"

For more information and press photos, see Lui's website www.luicollins.com
(413)628-0197