

ELIZABETH LAPRELLE

o l d s o n g s a n d b a l l a d s

“Elizabeth attends to these time-honored ballads with a level of comfort and conviction rarely found these days...There is a real kind of chilling effect of her singing...Elizabeth is more than simply an “interpreter” of this genre...she is accessing those aspects of the songs that transcend place and historical time, and speak directly to the heart.”

Jon Lohman, Virginia State Folklorist

“She’s the spirit of the Appalachians in song.”

**Knoxville’s
Weekly
Voice
Metro
Pulse**

“Anyone can learn the old ballads...But Elizabeth is interested in the feel, the sound, the ornamentation of the songs. She is, in my opinion, one of maybe a handful of young singers able to capture the rhythm, the intensity, the breaks and sighs, that make this style of singing authentic. The only problem I have while listening to Elizabeth is that I’m always listening through tears. She reminds me so much of my older relatives - the same profound feeling for the ballad, yet with such a clear voice.”

Sheila Kay Adams, seventh-generation ballad-singer

OLD BALLADS, YOUNG VOICE

Raised in Rural Retreat, Virginia, Elizabeth grew up in a home where there was always singing, and a community with many fine old-time musicians. She has developed her repertoire from neighbors like Jim Lloyd, under the tutelage of powerful female ballad singers Ginny Hawker and Sheila Kay Adams, and from a wealth of field recordings of legendary singers from the mountains.

Elizabeth has performed at festivals and concerts all over the country; toured on the East and West coasts as part of the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) Music from the Crooked Road project; won prizes at countless Fiddler’s Conventions. She was a guest on Garrison Kielor’s *A Prairie Home Companion* in 2005. Elizabeth has been a guest speaker and performer for college classes, and taught workshops at Centrum in Port Townsend, WA, and the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, WV.

Elizabeth currently has two albums: *Rain and Snow* (2004) and *Lizard in the Spring* (2007). Coming soon (November 2010) is her latest album, *Birds’ Advice*. All three are produced with Amy Davis and Jon Newlin of *The Hushpuppies* on banjo and fiddle, Sandy LaPrelle on mother-daughter harmonies, and the Amazing Jim Lloyd of Rural Retreat, VA on banjo and guitar.



Elizabeth LaPrelle is exceptional in her devotion to and mastery of the ancient and deep art of Appalachian unaccompanied singing. She performs with a sense of conviction, honesty, and emotional force that evokes the great Appalachian ballad-singers of generations past. Elizabeth’s voice, stark and unaccompanied, can lift and carry the listener away to another time.

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