

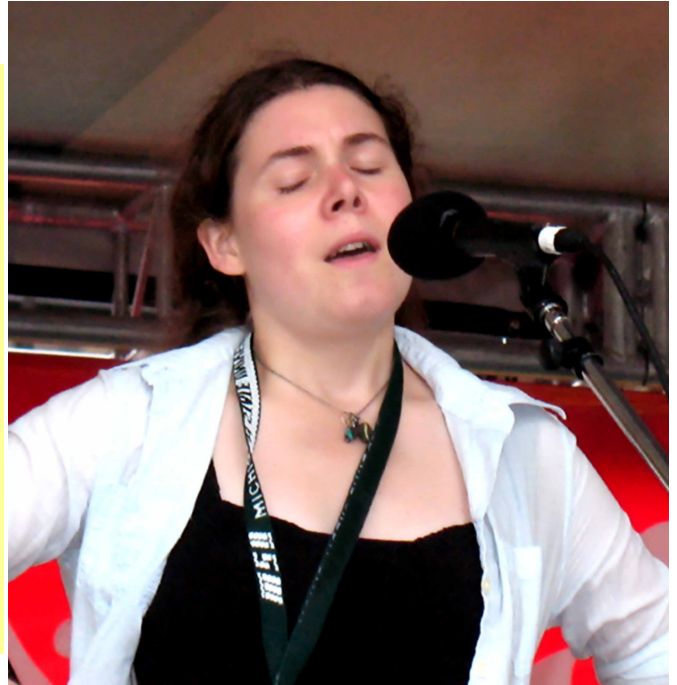
# Elizabeth LaPrelle

folk songs ~ old songs ~ ballads

## Old Ballads, Young Voice

**Elizabeth LaPrelle** has been performing Appalachian ballads and old-time songs, and winning prizes for her singing at fiddlers' conventions, since she was eleven. Her magnificent voice, her respect for the songs, and her authentic mountain sound and style brought her to the attention of first Ginny Hawker and then Sheila Kay Adams.

Raised in Rural Retreat, Virginia, Elizabeth learned from singing with her family, who taught her various singing styles and encouraged her to sing their own favorite American folk music. Fiddler's conventions gave her a chance to perform for mountain audiences who encouraged her interest in the traditional music of her region. She is currently balancing an increasingly busy performance schedule with her classes at the College of William & Mary, and is looking forward to graduating in May. Her self-designed major is *Southern Appalachian Traditional Performance*.



“Elizabeth attends to these time-honored ballads with a level of comfort and conviction rarely found these days, let alone by someone of such a young age. There is a real kind of chilling effect of her singing—a sense that while she may not have ‘lived’ it, she certainly feels it. Elizabeth...is more than simply an ‘interpreter’ of this genre. One gets the feeling...that she is accessing those aspect of these songs that transcend place and historical time, and speak directly to the heart.”

Jon Lohman,  
Director of the Virginia Folklife Program

“Anyone can learn the old ballads. There are numerous collections in libraries and books that are available on-line. But, Elizabeth is interested in the feel, the sound, the ornamentation of these 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

## Selected Past Performances

**Takoma Park Folk Festival**, Takoma Park, MD  
**Great Lakes Folk Festival**, East Lansing, MI  
**FloydFest**, Floyd, VA  
**American Folk Festival**, Bangor, MN  
**Appalachian Heritage Festival**, Shepherdstown, WV  
**The Crooked Road Goes West Tour Fall 2007**  
**A Prairie Home Companion**, Norfolk, VA  
**Appalachian Heritage Festival**, Shepherdstown, WV  
**West Virginia State Folk Festival**- Glenville, WV  
**The Prism Coffeehouse**- Charlottesville, VA  
**Virginia Arts Festival**- Williamsburg, VA

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