

ROBIN SPIELBERG'S AMERICAN TAPESTRY Ensemble bios



ROBIN SPIELBERG (piano/composer/arranger/backup vocals) is one of America's most beloved pianist/composers. A prolific composer, Robin has been winning the hearts of listeners around the world with her compelling melodies and sensitive piano technique since debuting her first recording of original solos for piano, "Heal of the Hand."

Spielberg has seventeen recordings to her credit and appears on over 40 compilations around the world. Her discography includes albums of original piano solos, arrangements of American standards, original pieces for piano/ensemble, recordings for the holidays, a CD of Americana melodies, and a CD of lullabies. A memoir of her life and travels and career as a composer/pianist is told in *Naked on the Bench: My Adventures in Pianoland* a 2014 Reader's Favorite Award winner.

Robin formed the American Tapestry trio after recording her concept-album "**Sea to Shining Sea: An American Tapestry of Music**." She describes the recording as containing "the songs that shaped us, the songs that live within us, the melodies of America."

Spielberg is a member of the prestigious Steinway Artist Roster. She is the recipient of the ASCAP Popular Music Award, and a finalist in the Great American Song Contest for penning "I Remember You" with Dave Goldman. Popular with Asian audiences, Robin has released two CDs in Korea and is on several compilations on Asian labels. She has toured in South Korea making concert appearances at the renowned Seoul Arts Center, LG Arts Center and KBS Hall. She recorded a special concert for Airiang TV, which aired throughout Asia.

Many dance works have been choreographed to her music including ballroom waltzes featured on "Great American Ballroom Challenge" (PBS) and BYU Ballroom Dance Team presentations.

Robin Spielberg is a Celebrity Spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association. Her work with music and wellness has been documented in The New York Times and in segments on *LifeTime Live* and *ABC News*. She gave a **TEDx Talk** on the healing power of music, available for viewing on Youtube. Spielberg has toured the US from Maine to Florida, New York to California and every place in between. Highlights include three performances at Carnegie Hall, a month-long tour through rural Montana and Idaho (with Steinway in tow) and appearances on NBC, CBS & PBS television. Ms. Spielberg graduated with high honors and a BFA from New York University. She is a founding member of the Tony-award winning Atlantic Theater Company. She resides in rural Pennsylvania with her husband/business partner, teenage daughter and four cats. www.robinspielberg.com



Ms. Knapp was a Teaching Assistant at the University of Colorado-Boulder and earned her Master's in Cello Performance from the University of Colorado in May of 2014. She earned a Bachelor's of Music in Cello Performance from the University of Northern Colorado in 2008. Ms. Knapp has performed in masterclasses, including those taught by Stephen Geber, and Johannes Moser. She is member of the

Focolari String Quartet, which has performed in masterclasses led by the Takacs String Quartet. Her primary teachers include Judith Glyde, Andrew Cook, and James Fittz.

Ms. Knapp is a champion for new music. She values collaborating with new composers and seeks new works to perform and record. While in Boulder, she was invited to perform at the Exchange of Midwestern Collegiate Composers in University of Missouri- Kansas City, and was a founding member of the Colorado New Music Ensemble. Her Focolari Quartet was selected to collaborate on, and perform, a world-premiering piece, based on Buddhist principals and improvisation, at Naropa University. Ms. Knapp performed in a multidisciplinary event called The Pain of Becoming, which included original compositions by Hugh Lobel, as well as amplification, film, and dance.

Aside from her classical music endeavors, Ms. Knapp also pursues alternative styles. While at the University of Colorado-Boulder, she took the stage with the Metropolitan Art Museum's Artist in Residence, DJ Spooky. She has also recorded and performed with local Los Angeles-based bands including Romantic Comedy, Wise Cub, and Alicia Broussard, among others. Between her educational pursuits, Ms. Knapp freelanced in Los Angeles. Among the highlights of her work in Los Angeles was performing Dvorak's "American" String Quartet, as a member of the Walden String Quartet, at the home of the Czech Republic Consul. Ms. Knapp is also a demo artist for the Apogee microphone, "Mic," and she was named "Emerging Artist" for the 2011 Gold Coast Chamber Music Festival in Los Angeles. Ms. Knapp is thrilled to have returned to Los Angeles. Her graduate work at the University of Colorado-Boulder has instilled a spirit of adventure and invigorated her as a performer and teacher. Her most recent standout performances were sharing the stage with Malek Jandali, a Syrian-American pianist and composer, in Boulder, CO and New York City. Away from the cello, Ms. Knapp enjoys outdoor adventures throughout southern California.



KATE MACLEOD (guitar/fiddle/vocals) Through many years as a performer of music steeped in the traditions of Europe and North America, and with a pedigree of ancestors who began immigrating to North America in 1632, Kate MacLeod has an innate sense for American music. Kate's vocals, accompanied by her acoustic guitar playing, express the poignancy of traditional songs with unaffected charm. Her violin playing reaches across Classical, Celtic, Klezmer and Bluegrass genres with ease, and has made her a fiddler in great

demand on touring circuits. In addition to being recognized as an interpreter of traditional music, Kate is known as a composer of songs that constitute a natural and unbroken link between traditional music and cutting-edge contemporary songwriting. She has been hailed as one of the "Ten Acts to Watch" by the editors of The MusicHound Folk Essential Album Guide. Her latest solo recording, 'Blooming,' was produced by Grammy-winning roots musician Tim O'Brien; and her 2011 release, 'Lost and Found,' has been among the top ten on the International Folk and Bluegrass Radio airplay charts. Kate's songs have aired on nationally syndicated radio shows including

Tom May's "River City Folk," Judy Collins' holiday program, "Peace on Earth," and have been sung by other artists on "A Prairie Home Companion." Her songs have been recorded by other musicians from California to the Czech Republic. Her recordings are available through Waterbug Records and Wind River from Folk Era Records. MacLeod "*channels the spirit of the great Carter Family classics.*" -Sing Out!
www.KateMacLeod.com.