

Maria Gillard

Maria Gillard is a singer, songwriter, and educator from the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. Best known as a folk musician, she has grown to embrace a wider style range, including jazz, swing, and blues. She leads the Maria Gillard Band, a four-piece Rochester-based swing/jazz band, and is also revered in folk and bluegrass circles, often with a mandolin.

Her compelling voice draws you into her lyrics which, when combined with memorable melodies, head straight for the heart. Maria's songs offer wise, humorous, and sometimes painful observations on life and relationships. She tells stories through her music in ways that are soul stirring, evocative, contagious, lively and energizing. When you listen to Maria's songs, you feel her heartache and, more often, her joy, laughter, and delight at life's experiences. She has a warm, inviting, natural flair, which leaves audiences wanting more and coming back!

As an educator, Maria received a bachelor's degree in Music from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. She is a music instructor and directs a vocal jazz ensemble at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, New York. She has worked for the Aesthetic Education Institute as a teaching artist, given concerts and held workshops in schools and nursing homes for many years. She teaches private voice, piano and guitar lessons in her home, and has toured as a folk musician throughout the northeast.



Notable performances:

WXXI Public Television
Passim, Boston, MA
Kerrville Folk Festival
Omega Institute
Gottagetgone Festival, Ballston Spa, NY
Turtle Hill Festival, Rochester, NY
Peterborough Folk Society
Folknet, Akron, Ohio
The Music Hall, Oswego, NY
Baltimore Folk Society
Folk Project, New Jersey

Opened for:

John McCutcheon
Cheryl Wheeler
Vance Gilbert
Loudon Wainwright III
Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem
The Burns Sisters
Claudia Schmidt
Aztec Two Step
Cliff Eberhardt

Shared bills with:

Kinloch Nelson
Dady Brothers
Chuck Brodsky
Michael Smith
Steve Key
Joe LaMay
Lisa Bigwood
Bernice Lewis
Connie Deming

Mending

Maria's 2013 CD, *Mending*, is a personal testament to healing and a celebration of life with friends. It's a collection of recordings with different artists over a span of about a year, with styles ranging from folk and country to torch-song jazz.

"Original compositions that beautifully illustrate Maria's gentle swing and lyrical charm. It isn't easy putting a guitar between you and the mirror then turning the reflection around for the world to see ... unless you're Maria Gillard." — Frank DeBlase, *City Newspaper*, Rochester, NY



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