

# Mara Levine: Facets of Folk (2019)



(Cover Photo by Manny Krevat / Design by Hillary Foxsong)

**LABEL:** Mara's Creations / Bell Buckle Records

**PRODUCED BY:** Mara Levine, Bob Harris, John Guth

**RETAIL OUTLETS:** MaraLevine.com, BellBuckleRecords.com, CD Baby

#1 Album, #1 Artist, #1 Song, 9 songs in the top 25, FAI Folk DJ Chart: Jan 2019.

#3 Album, #2 Artist, #5, #11, #25 songs overall: 2019 FAI Folk DJ Chart

22 weeks: Bluegrass Today "Grassicana" Chart (Top 15) 2017/2018

#5 Album NACC Chart, February 2019

*"Some people, like the one described in Leonard Cohen's classic song, are born with a Golden Voice. Mara Levine is one of those gifted few who fit that definition. Hearing her sing makes you stop whatever you are doing and LISTEN! Known for her warmth, sincerity and impeccable natural musicality, she makes us all listen more intently, and celebrate the beauty that she brings to every song she sings and inspires us to do better ourselves, in whatever field we work. Thank you Mara for making us all remember the poetry of lyricism."* - DAVID AMRAM, Composer, Conductor, Multi Instrumentalist

Called one of the best singers of her generation by Christine Lavin, folksinger and jewelry designer Mara Levine, like a skilled gem cutter, selects songs with inherent beauty, examines them carefully, then crafts and polishes them to a glittering brilliance. According to folksinger and activist Si Kahn, "Layering harmony line on top of harmony line, Levine creates rich tapestries of sound and emotion."

With her third album, FACETS OF FOLK, Levine has found her true voice and it rings clearly and powerfully like a bell or chime, reminiscent of her inspirations Judy Collins and Joan Baez, as she explores some of the different faces of the folk genre. Most songs on the project are filled with Levine's lush harmony arrangements and invite the listener to sing along.

"As I was selecting material for my third" CD said Levine, "I was inspired by the current political and social challenges facing us today, and thought a great deal about the importance of speaking out against injustice, both societal, and for people in our lives who are being wronged."

On FACETS OF FOLK, Levine presents a number of songs of social conscience with themes of taking a stand, making a difference, considering the treatment of others and becoming a better person. Those tunes, written by popular contemporary songwriters as well as emerging talents, are all carefully set among folk favorites and lesser known songs. The lead off track, "You Reap What You Sow," (Susan Shann) recorded with bluegrass luminaries Greg Blake, Bob Harris, Rob Ickes, Andy Leftwich, Mollie O'Brien, Mark Schatz and Scott Vestal, was extremely well received when it was released as a single in November 2017, hitting #1 on the Folk DJ chart and spending 22 weeks on the Bluegrass Today Grassicana chart.

A traditional holiday song from the Scottish Hebrides, "Taladh Chriosda" has been re-recorded with frequent touring partners Gathering Time. Four additional songs were recorded with Gathering Time, including a rousing version of the Tommy Sands protest anthem, "Daughters and Sons", featuring special guests Kim and Reggie Harris swapping lead vocals with Levine, and "By My Silence" a provocative warning about the perils of remaining passive in the face of injustice, written by award winning Florida singer-songwriters Ellen Bukstel and Nick Annis, which reached #1 on the Folk DJ Chart when it was released as a single in September 2017.

FACETS OF FOLK was co-produced by Bob Harris, (Johnny Cash, Vasser Clements, Girlyman) who plays guitar and helped with arrangements on many of the tracks, and also with John Guth (Tom Chapin, Galt MacDermot) who plays various instruments and helped with arrangements on five of the tracks. Other contributing musicians; Kim and Reggie Harris, Robin Greenstein, Michael G. Ronstadt, Ed Trickett, Josh Joffen, Terry Kitchen, Caroline Cutroneo, Jan Alba, Harold Morton, Sean McComiskey, Barbara Novick, Cheryl Prashker, Tilman Reitzle, Akiva Wharton and Patrice Avsharian Wiseman.

1. You Reap What You Sow ★  
(Susan Shann) 3:08
2. Daughters and Sons (Tommy Sands) 3:50 ★
3. Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye ★  
(Leonard Cohen) 3:12 \*
4. Tree of Life (Eric Peltoniemi) 3:19
5. A Perfect Rose (Terry Kitchen) 3:50 ★
6. Be the Change (Arlon Bennett) 3:24 ★
7. By My Silence ★  
(Ellen Bukstel & Nick Annis) 3:32
8. Taladh Chriosda (Traditional) 2:56
9. Child of Mine (Bill Staines) 3:46
10. Upstream (Si Kahn) 3:04
11. The Moment Slipped Away ★  
(Christine Lavin) 3:58
12. Bitter Green (Gordon Lightfoot) 2:54 ★
13. Song for the Asking (Paul Simon) time 2:13

★ **Key Track.** See reverse for annotated track list and artists who contributed their talents to this album.

*"When Chris Lavin and David Amram are saying, 'looky here', we're going to look. On her third album, Levine marks her territory as the new standard bearer for folk music with this classically framed set that finds her interpreting worthy modern classics, protest music, and some of the sweetest vocalizing you'll find this side of the golden sounds of the 60's. A flat-out winner throughout, this isn't about lo-fi, nostalgia or whatever --- it's a delightful slice of the here and now, hitting the nail right on the head. Well done"* - CHRIS SPECTOR, MIDWEST RECORD

*"Mara Levine is a gifted singer who's expressive and versatile voice is suited to any style of music she darn well pleases to focus on, including bluegrass, country or folk."* - DEDE WYLAND, SKYLINE