

# Mara Levine: Jewels and Harmony



(Cover photo by Michael Cala)

**RELEASE DATE:** January 2013

**LABEL:** Mara's Creations

**PRODUCED BY:** Mara Levine and Bob Harris

**RETAIL OUTLETS:** MaraLevine.com, CDBaby.com

*"From the moment the music begins, it is clear that this album is something special. Every note, instrument and harmony is perfectly placed. She explores each song, its intent and intonation, and then sings with soulful elegance. The songs reach down deep, touch your senses and send you on a musical journey through the seasons and life's passages, both literally and figuratively."*

- Jeanne Holton Carufel, host - "Acoustic Peace Club," WMNF-FM, Tampa FL

Called "one of the best singers of her generation" by Christine Lavin, folksinger and jewelry designer Mara Levine has been creating beautiful interpretations of fine traditional and contemporary folk songs for many years. She has an ear for both new songs and for classics that can be reshaped to sound fresh and new. Layering one harmony line on top of another, she creates rich tapestries of sound and emotion.

*Jewels and Harmony* was the most played album on folk radio in January and also sported the top two songs - "The Dutchman" and "When I Sing With You." Mara was also named top artist for the month. This is according to charts compiled by Richard Gillmann from radio playlists submitted to FOLKDJ-L, an electronic discussion group for DJs and others interested in all folk-based music on the radio. Si Kahn lends his seasoned and expressive voice to Levine's moving arrangement of Michael Smith's "The Dutchman" as a duet. Says Smith: "You and Si sound great together, and the interpretation is honest and sincere and tuneful... the cello and guitar and voices filled the space beautifully. I'm proud to be associated with your work." "When I Sing with You," a song that Si Kahn wrote for the album features folk harmony trio Gathering Time and singer-songwriter Joe Jencks on harmony vocals.

Levine's version of Bob Franke's "Straw Against the Chill" with Joe Jencks and her arrangement of Paul Simon's "Leaves That Are Green" with Gathering Time have been well-received by folk DJs and appear on *Jewels and Harmony*.

Building on the success of Mara's *Gems*, her 2009 debut, *Jewels and Harmony* features 15 hand-picked songs that reflect changes we experience and some of life's journeys and passages. The change of seasons, with spring inevitably turning towards winter, mirrors both aging and the disintegration and loss of significant relationships. Other songs touch on yearning for meaningful connections that will endure and on themes of hopefulness, rebirth, the support of friends and partners who stand by us, the joy of making music together, and the healing power of music to soothe and keep us connected. In addition to Kahn and Smith, Levine has drawn her material from popular contemporary songwriters like Bob Franke, Paul Simon and Bill Staines and emerging talents such as Nancy Cassidy, Jud Caswell and Pat Wictor.

*Jewels and Harmony* was co-produced by Mara Levine and Bob Harris (Johnny Cash, Girlyman, among others), who also plays guitar on 10 of 15 tracks and helped with arrangements on several songs. A number of other artists on the contemporary folk and bluegrass scene also contributed their talents to this recording.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS CONTACT:**

MICHAEL KORNFELD 631-418-8548 michael@michaelkornfeld.com

1. Leaves that are Green (Paul Simon) 2:45 ★
2. The Dutchman (Michael Smith) 4:56 ★
3. Hallelujah (Nancy Cassidy) 3:43 ★
4. When I Sing with You (Si Kahn) 3:48 ★
5. By My Side (Jay Hamburger and Peggy Gordon) 2:48
6. Immigrant Dream (Bob Wright) 3:49
7. River (Bill Staines) 4:15
8. Summertime (George Gershwin, Ira Gershwin, Heyward DuBose) 4:08
9. Blackberry Time (Jud Caswell) 4:13
- 10 April Come She Will (Paul Simon) 2:53
11. Burning Tree (Elmer Beal, Jr.) 4:40
12. Killing the Blues (Rowland Salley) 3:32
- 13: I Will Walk with You (Pat Wictor) 3:19
14. Straw Against The Chill (Bob Franke) 4:49
15. Leave Time (Dan Schatz) 4:33

★ **Key Track.** See reverse for additional info, quotes, venues and artists who contributed their talents to this album.

*"Mara, I think you are one of the best singers of your generation. Every songwriter worth their salt should be sending you their tunes. You have such a beautiful, timeless quality to your voice and you make beautiful recordings. I just LOVE what you do."*  
- Christine Lavin

**Contact Mara:** (732) 549-9722 | **Email:** MaraBLevine@gmail.com | **Web:** www.maralevine.com | P.O. Box 2057, Edison, NJ 08818

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## Additional Information, Quotes, Venues and Accolades

Folksinger and jewelry designer **Mara Levine** has been creating beautiful interpretations of fine traditional and contemporary folk songs for many years. Folk DJ Jim Marino has referred to her as "golden-voiced," while Michael Stock - calls her voice "full, rich and soothing." Mara was nominated by Ron Olesko in 2009 for the NERFA Suzi Wollenberg Folk DJ showcase.

*Jewels and Harmony* - Mara's 2013 release - reached # 1 for January on Richard Gillmann's Folk-DJ chart. Artists on the contemporary folk and bluegrass scene contributing their talents to this recording include: Jan Alba, Rose Berkowitz, Greg Blake, Brother Sun, Bill "Rusty" Crowell, Caroline Cutroneo, Bill Doerge, Gathering Time, KC Groves, John Guth, Loretta Hagen, Chad Hammer, Joe Jencks, Si Kahn, Terry Kitchen, Shannon Lambert-Ryan of RUNA, Andrew Magill, Cheryl Prashker, Terry Rivel, Elaine Romanelli, Dan Schatz, Jeff Scroggins, Tristan Scroggins, Mark Torres, Pat Wictor and Bob Wright.

Mara performs as a duo with Caroline Cutroneo and as a duo with Terry Kitchen, shares shows with "Gathering Time", and sings with a number of groups and musicians. She has performed at such venues as the Borderline Folk Club, the Folk Project Festival, The Good Coffeehouse, Strawberry Festival, Huntington Folk Festival, Hurdy Gurdy Folk Club, and the Minstrel Coffeehouse. She's appeared on programs including "The Folk Show" with Gene Shay on WXPB (Philadelphia, PA), "Folk and Acoustic Music" with Michael Stock on WLRN (Miami, FL), "Saturday Folk Show" with Jeannie Holton on WMNF (Tampa, FL), "Traditions" with Ron Olesko on WFDU (Teaneck, NJ) and WVBR "Bound For Glory" with Phil Shapiro among others. Mara also has provided vocals for recordings for several albums.

### Quotes: What others are saying....

*"Jewels and Harmony is one of those recordings where you want to listen to the entire work and then listen once by again. Mara Levine's voice jumps out at you with the clarity of a well tuned chime or bell in the tradition of Judy Collins and Joan Baez. Her selection of songs for this project are truly well chosen and the delight of having the amazing guests she has surrounded herself with is a true treat.... if Mara continues on this trajectory, there is no reason she should not be recognized as the world-class artist she is."* **Bill Hahn, co-host - "Traditions," WFDU -FM, Teaneck NJ**

*"Wow! I'm not sure where to start with the accolades for Jewels and Harmony. Most recordings have three or four very good songs and the rest are so so. I've methodically played each cut and every song is brilliantly done. The subtle but exquisite instrumentation and....ahh....those harmonies....and your voice....- simply beautiful."* **Jim Fisher, host - "Down Home Folk and Bluegrass," WGCS FM, Goshen IN**

*"WOW! Your CD is stunningly beautiful. Your voice is so rich and fluid and your song choice excellent. I instantly remembered By My Side, and sang right along...I just want to say that your CD is truly gorgeous."* **Maggie Ferguson, host - "The Old Front Porch," WXOU-FM, MI**

*"I heard so many nice comments after the show. You were outstanding, and the audience loved you! It was a memorable performance!"* **Ron Olesko, president - Hurdy Gurdy Folk Club (Fairlawn, New Jersey)**

*"Mara's voice is instantly stunning, with its piercing beauty, pinpoint pitch, and a warm and comforting vibrato. Our audience loved her show, and, as a presenter, I found her to be a solid professional, dedicated to her art, charming to her fans, and a joy to work with in the business of making music a pleasure."* **Mark Schaffer, co-chair - 2011 New Jersey Folk Project Festival (Morristown, NJ)**

*"Mara Levine draws you to her with a warm, clear voice. Every note is pitch-perfect, and her song choices and harmonies are impeccable. Her presentations are inviting and they encourage not only a joining of voices, but also a joining of spirits. Mara is a performer who should not be missed, and she would be a treat for the entire family, no matter what their musical preferences are".* **Frank Moccaldi, booking agent - The Good Coffeehouse (Brooklyn, NY)**

*"I was immediately impressed by her vocal talent, warm personality, and the tremendous rapport that she had with the audience. Whether doing a traditional folk song, one that was written by the legendary Si Kahn, or one of more recent vintage by Bob Franke, Pat Wictor or Eric Bogle, Mara gives the song her own unique interpretation much as an artist does when putting paint to canvas."* **Sol Zeller, president-Borderline Folk Club (Rockland County, New York).**

*"Mara's performance at the Folk Project Fall Festival in 2011 drew an enthusiastic response from our audience. She sings with a clear, pure sound that imparts a lovely ethereal tone to her music and her repertoire is studded with some of the most memorable tunes in the folk/rock genre. Whether singing lead vocals or luscious harmonies, Mara's voice draws the audience into an alternate realm."* **Lori Falco, performer liaison - Folk Project (Morristown, New Jersey)**

See reverse for album description, artist bio and contact information.