



Mara Levine with Gathering Time Photo by Tom Stuart

Mara Levine was selected for a 2019 Semi-Formal NERFA showcase, a 2014 NERFA Quad showcase and a 2009 NERFA Folk DJ showcase. Her latest CD, *Facets of Folk*, received stellar reviews and was the #1 album, with the #1 song and #1 artist positions on the FAI Folk DJ Chart for January 2019, and her previous CD placed #3 overall for 2013, and was named #4 Cover Album of 2013 by Cover Lay Down.

Gathering Time (Stuart Markus, Gerry McKeveny and Hillary Foxsong) is a folk-rock harmony trio best described as a co-ed Crosby, Stills & Nash, with a bit of The Byrds and a jolt of Joni Mitchell. They perform a combination of original music and classic 1960s folk-rock, and re-imagined Trad. Their latest CD, *Keepsake*, was similarly #1 for March, 2016, with the #1 song; they were also the #1 artist for the month and the album finished the year at #4. They have been selected for NERFA juried showcases an impressive 5 times.

Mara and Gathering Time have been touring separately and together on the folk circuit for about 10 years, in the northeastern U.S. and beyond. In that time, we've performed at a variety of venues, from house concerts and folk stages to municipal parks in front of many hundreds of people. Most recently we toured Ireland and Germany together in April 2018, and played the Woodstock (Illinois) Folk Festival, and a number of shows in the Tri-state area in 2019. When we tour together, Gathering Time backs Mara, then they play their own set as a trio. We can perform shows of mostly originals and interpretations, or entire shows of trad or cover songs from the 1960s, or depending on the venues' preferences and what their audiences will best respond to.

We jointly released two socially conscious songs in September 2017, in response to the re-emergence of hate groups in America: "By My Silence" (Ellen Bukstel & Nick Annis), a preview from *FACETS OF FOLK*, and "Too Far To Turn Back Now" (Markus) which landed at #1 and #4 on the Folk DJ Chart.

"With *Facets of Folk*, Mara Levine solidifies her position as a folk force to be reckoned with. As on her previous CD *Jewels and Harmony*, her signature sound shines through: Thoughtful song choice, creative harmonies, rich instrumentation, her own exuberant singing. With an emphasis on songs that make a difference, Mara has created music that is very much for today, but also for years to come." - Si Kahn

"You Reap What You Sow", a preview from Mara's upcoming 3rd album *FACETS OF FOLK*. It was #1 on the November 2017 Folk DJ chart, #16 for 2017, and charted for 22 weeks in 2017/2018 on the Bluegrass Today "Grassicana" chart, peaking 3x at #9!

While Mara Levine doesn't sing original songs, it truly doesn't matter. She chooses songs or has songwriters create what suits her voice, and what a voice! With Gathering Time backing her up, it's magical. Mara and Gathering Time performed at my series and the audience loved it, and her. And the harmonies they created – spectacular. Don't hesitate to bring them in and she'll do what she does best. Sing beautifully."

- Jill Padua, RiverFolk Concerts 10/17

I first met Mara Levine several years ago at Folk Alliance in Kansas City. I have been listening to and playing Mara's music ever since. I had the pleasure of booking Mara and Gathering Time into KAFM's Radio Room in Grand Junction, Colorado. The audience loved her! Mara selects the songs she sings with great care and her singing evokes emotions that you and I can feel in each one. Her voice is clear and deliberate as she takes you on a journey with her in each song.

- Veta Gumber, DJ Bluegrass and Beyond KAFM Radio, Grand Junction, Colorado

Mara Levine: Facets of Folk (2019)



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

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

"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 60s. A flat out winner throughout, this isn't about lo-fi, nostalgia or what ever---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 whose 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

#1 Album, #1 Artist, #1 Song FAI Folk DJ Chart, January 2019

LABEL: Mara's Creations

PRODUCED BY: Mara Levine, Bob Harris, John Guth

RETAIL OUTLETS: MaraLevine.com, CDBaby.com

"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.

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