

MARY BETH CROSS

BIOGRAPHY

Mary Beth Cross is an accomplished singer, songwriter, guitarist, banjoist and artist career coach who is enhancing lives around the world by writing and performing “thoughtful, soothing music for thoughtful living.”

The Denver artist’s music is influenced by the rural farmland and forests of her Wisconsin upbringing and the Rocky Mountains where she currently resides. Her latest release, “**Beyond Good and Evil**”, recently hit number four on Airplay Direct’s Americana Music Chart. The project was inspired by the spirit and grit of the pioneers who blazed the trail from the East to the West in search of what they treasured most.

Mary Beth’s growing notoriety has led to performances at venues and events such as Folk Alliance International in Toronto and Kansas City, Mo., the Denver Coliseum, and the Colorado Association of School Nurses in Breckenridge, Colo.

The artist describes her music as acoustic Americana with hints of folk and jazz. Her multi-faceted repertoire reflects her love of Broadway, Acoustic Roots and classic Country -- appealing to audiences from all walks of life.

“My music comes from inspiration found in the beauty of nature and the human spirit,” said Mary Beth, who has recorded four albums of originals and covers of some favorite songs. “I work with all kinds of people, and I write songs to hopefully touch others and make them feel something.”

She carefully chooses acoustic instrumentation to highlight the historical time period for each song -- representing a few of the cultures that have contributed to American music. Listeners are deeply moved by African-American-inspired banjos;

Celtic-flavored pipes, whistles and percussion; and French Cafe-accented accordions and horns. Her live performances and recordings feature collaborations with some of the nation’s top Americana, folk, jazz and bluegrass musicians. Selections from her albums have aired on radio stations and websites around the world.

“What is so compelling about Mary Beth’s music to me is that it both educates and moves me,” said producer/collaborator **Dave Bechtel**. “Her love and understanding of the struggles of the people for whom this great country was founded creates compelling stories. For her to tell these stories that so few have ever heard gives a voice to those who were born in a time when not everyone was treated as equal. This reveals Mary Beth’s heart.”

The fifth of five children, Mary Beth grew up in a middle class family in Green Bay, Wis. She compares her childhood life to “The Waltons” meets the novel “Little Women”, with two brothers. She and her grandparents, parents, siblings and cousins cherished old-fashioned family gatherings, nature and music. One of her best memories is singing songs with family members around a campfire in the Wisconsin woodlands. They especially enjoyed watching classic TV music programs such as “The Lawrence Welk Show” and favorite movies such as “The Wizard of Oz” and “The Sound of Music”. Mary Beth also loved listening to country legends such as Patsy Cline and Tammy Wynette, and dancing ballet to the classical sounds of Tchaikovsky, Léo Delibes, and Adolphe Adam. Her grandmother rolled the keys on nostalgic classics such as “My Wild Irish Rose” and “Hello Dolly”. On Sundays, there were guitar folk masses and polka-

accented get-togethers.

"The exposure to so many genres of music led to my broad musical range, allowing me to touch all kinds of people in life-changing ways," Mary Beth added.

She taught herself how to play guitar at age 12. Two years later, with the help of her guitar teacher, she was performing regularly at her church and weddings in Green Bay. She performed in the choir, musicals and solo ensemble competitions in high school and later joined the highly respected Choral Union Choir at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Inspired by legendary singer-songwriters such as Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins, she began writing and performing original folk music in churches, open mics, student unions, and festivals.

Then came a string of highly successful albums, including "**Beyond Good and Evil**". All four of her albums are available through iTunes, Amazon and other online retailers.

Released in 2011, "**In My Right Mind**" celebrates the early colonial American immigrants who brought with them their stories, music, dances and art.

Her second album, "**The Enchanted Highway**", celebrates the Southwest of the United States and moments Mary Beth has felt a close connection to the spirit.

"**Laughing Through Tears**", her first CD, is a journey of a woman's heart from falling in love to finding meaningful work in the world.

"I've discovered that people are yearning to find acceptance and solace in a dizzying world of pressure-filled expectations," said the artist, who is currently working on a fifth CD on the theme of home, and what that feels like.

Mary Beth has performed across the United States and Canada. Other appearances include the "Colorado Performing Arts Jamboree" in Golden, Colo.; the Black Rose Acoustic Society in Colorado Springs,

Colo.; Swallow Hill Music in Denver; Metropolitan State College in Denver; the Delta Chelsea Hotel in Toronto; and KRFC 88.9-FM's "Live @ Lunch".

MARY BETH'S SONGS AND PERFORMANCES ARE RECEIVING RAVE REVIEWS

"Mary Beth has a voice as pure as those Rocky Mountain streams we've all heard so much about," said hit songwriter **Rand Bishop**.

"If there was ever a 'feel good' album in the folk-Americana genre, this is it," noted two-time Grammy-winning producer **Dennis Scott** of The WannaBeatles.

"Through the sweet purity of her voice, Mary Beth has captured the underlying haunting story in 'Babes in the Wood', said artist **Dierdre Keohane**, partner of the late Irish songwriter **Noel Brazil**. "I know Noel would be proud of this version."

"'Beyond Good and Evil' is a wonderful collaboration of fine instrumentalists and Mary Beth's vocals and songwriting," raved **Chris McKhool**, producer, composer, violinist and fiddler for Sultan of String. "It is a pleasure and joy to listen to."

"I was pleasantly surprised by the professionalism and sheer musicality that radiated from my speakers," said **Uwe Kruger**, singer/guitarist/songwriter of The Kruger Brothers. "She has managed to get her very outgoing, winning personality infused into her selection of songs that keep you listening to the CD all the way through with great joy!"

The singer-songwriter earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is certified in MusicGarten and KinderMusic training. She continues to take online music courses through Berklee College of Music, Song School at Planet Bluegrass, Folk Alliance International, and the International Bluegrass Music Association.

She has been a member of the Swallow Hill Music Association since 1994, Colorado Bluegrass Music Association since 2009, a voting member of International Bluegrass Music Association since 2010, AMA since 2012, and the Recording Academy (Grammy 365) since 2013.

"I am a woman who loves Christ and is dedicated to my family, those God puts before me on my journey, and those that cannot speak for

themselves", said Mary Beth, who is the mother of two children.

The artist is available to perform at concert venues, arts centers, nightclubs, art galleries, hotels, homeless shelter events, festivals, assisted living centers, and churches. In addition to musical performances, she offers an artist career-building workshop called "Finding Your Own Voice: How the Music in Our Life Influences Our Voice in the World".



To learn more about Mary Beth Cross

call: (303) 842-1587

MaryBeth@MaryBethCross.com

www.MaryBethCross.com

www.reverbNation.com/marybethcross

For inquiries related to radio airplay,

Bill Wence Promotions

BillWencePro@earthlink.net

(615) 776-2060

For media inquiries

Whiting Publicity and Promotions

Arts@WhitingPublicity.com

(615) 423-9857