

MARY BETH CROSS

FACT SHEET

Description: Mary Beth Cross is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, banjoist and artist career coach.

Musical Style Mary Beth's music is influenced by the rural farmland and forests of her Wisconsin upbringing and the Rocky Mountains where she currently resides. The artist describes her music as acoustic Americana with hints of folk and jazz. Her multi-faceted repertoire reflects her love of Broadway and classic country -- appealing to audiences from all walks of life.

In Her Own Words "I've discovered that people are yearning to find acceptance and solace in a dizzying world of pressure-filled expectations," said Mary Beth, whose CD "Beyond Good and Evil" hit number four on the Airplay Direct Americana Music Chart. "People long for an authentic, non-formula approach. My music comes from inspiration found in the beauty of nature and the human spirit. I work with all kinds of people, and I write songs to hopefully touch others and make them feel something. 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".

Message Mary Beth is enhancing lives around the world by writing and performing "thoughtful, soothing music for thoughtful living."

Background The fifth of six children, Mary Beth grew up in a middle class family in Green Bay, Wis. She compares her childhood life to the TV show "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. Television, vinyl records and radio played a big part in her musical development. Family members enjoyed watching "The Sound of Music", "The Wizard of Oz", "The Lawrence Welk Show", and "The Carol Burnett Show". She often lay on the floor next to a stereo speaker memorizing lyrics to albums her siblings brought home. A friend introduced her to country legends Patsy Cline and Tammy Wynette. Her ballet classes featured the classical sounds of Tchaikovsky ("The Nutcracker" and "Swan Lake"), Léo Delibes ("Sylvia", "Coppélia" and "Lakme"), and Adolphe Adam ("Giselle"). Her grandmother rolled the keys on nostalgic classics such as "My Wild Irish Rose" "Bill Bailey", "Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella", "Hello Dolly" and "Mame". On Sundays, there were guitar folk masses and polka-accented get-togethers. The exposure to so many genres of music led to her broad musical range, allowing her to touch all kinds of people in life-changing ways.

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Musical Journey Mary Beth 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 the Green Bay area. 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. She has recorded four albums, including the Americana-charting CD, "Beyond Good and Evil". She is currently working on a fifth CD on the theme of home, and what that feels like. Her 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.

Venues The artist performs at concert venues, arts centers, nightclubs, art galleries, hotels, homeless shelter events, festivals, assisted living centers, and churches.

Appearances Mary Beth has performed across the United States and Canada. Highlights include Folk Alliance International in Toronto and Kansas City, Mo.; 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; the Denver Coliseum; the Colorado Association of School Nurses in Breckenridge, Colo.; and KRFC 88.9-FM's "Live @ Lunch".

Recordings Mary Beth has recorded four albums of originals and covers of some favorite songs, with contributions from producer Dave Bechtel and internationally respected musicians.

"**Beyond Good and Evil**" 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.

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

"**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**" is a journey of a woman's heart from falling in love to finding meaningful work in the world.

Fan Base Mary Beth is building a large fan base through her performances, radio airplay, and social networking sites.

What Others Are Saying "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.

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

"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!"

Workshops The artist offers an artist career-building workshop called "Finding Your Own Voice: How the Music in Our Life Influences Our Voice in the World".

The Future Mary Beth is working on a fifth album on the theme of home, and what that feels like. She continues to perform and promote her latest album, "Beyond Good and Evil".

Education She 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.

Memberships 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.



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