

Eliza Gilkyson - Biography

Eliza Gilkyson is a twice Grammy-nominated (2006/2015) folk singer/songwriter and activist who is one of the most respected musicians in Folk, Roots and Americana circles. Her songs have been covered by Joan Baez, Bob Geldof, Tom Rush and Rosanne Cash and have appeared in films, PBS specials and on prime-time TV. A member of the Austin Music Hall of Fame, and a recent inductee into the Austin Songwriter Hall of Fame, she has won countless Folk Alliance and Austin Music awards, including 2014's Songwriter of the Year.

Eliza's music has always offered a vivid reflection of the times we live in, full of joys and sorrows, each song a window into a life of struggle and triumph in a culture she feels is "caught between collapse and reinvention".

Eliza's newly released cd "SECULARIA", is a collection of spiritually charged songs that do not fit within the parameters of traditional patriarchal religious beliefs but challenge us to respect all life and be accountable for our actions in such divisive times. "The threat of the fall from grace, and the glory of redemption of the soul in these songs aren't as much about a supernatural hierarchical hell and heaven as they are about losing and finding myself as a human being and as a woman, within the span of a life and the context of a society that must be held accountable."

The new collection features a stunning performance with the acclaimed Tosca String Quartet, cameos with Shawn Colvin, gospel singer Sam Butler, and a duet with her friend the late Jimmy LaFave, as well as several songs adapted from poetry by her grandmother Phoebe Hunter Gilkyson, who co-wrote with Eliza's father, folk singer Terry Gilkyson.

On stage, Eliza presents a vibrant spontaneous mix of storytelling with self-effacing humor and tenderness, within a wide-ranging spectrum of human experience, from intimate love songs to political diatribe, accompanied by brilliant support players.

*"Even her darkest moments are warmed by a genuine compassion for the lost souls who sometimes populate her stories, and a very real concern for the world we all live in is woven through every tune... Whether she looks into darkness or light, Eliza Gilkyson's vision is impressive." ~ **All Music Guide***

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