



The Strangelings

www.thestrangelings.net

booking: Granata Agency - 973 208 7291

information: strangelings@aol.com



A haunting electric sitar, a fiddler on fire, and, floating above it all, the ethereal voices of three women in gorgeous harmony, all blended into an alchemical potion of myth yoked to deep percussive grooves. Think vintage Fairport Convention fronted by strong female harmonies. The songs: Trad to Neo-Trad. The Strangelings are Maura and Pete Kennedy, Chris Thompson, Rebecca Hall, Ken Anderson, Cheryl Prashker and Eric Lee.

Maura, who centers the band with her resonant vocals and powerful guitar, is, like her husband Pete, a veteran of the folk and pop scenes. They both toured the United States and the British Isles as members of Nanci Griffith's Blue Moon Orchestra, performing at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall. They are featured on a number of Nanci's CDs, including the Grammy-winning *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms*. In New York City, they were regulars at the legendary Bottom Line, and in 1999 they proudly accepted an invitation to become Artists-in-Residence at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. When they're not on the road, Maura and Pete reside in a century-old schoolhouse in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson are, like the Kennedys, a husband and wife duo who have devoted their lives to their music, touring the nation from coast to coast, delighting audiences with their own brand of self-described "retro-folk". They share with the other Strangelings a love for the haunting, ancient ballads of the British Isles. Rebecca has a knack for writing songs that sound like legends, handed down for generations, and Ken's bass provides a solid foundation for the group's danceable grooves. When they're not on the road, Rebecca and Ken relax and write in a tiny farmhouse on the slopes of Windham Hill in Southern Vermont.

Chris Thompson, vocalist and guitarist, has been an exciting fixture on the Boston scene for a number of years, performing at the city's top venues, including the Somerville theatre and historic Club Passim. Her songs are a regular fixture on WUMB, the folk powerhouse station of New England, and her song "Clearwater" is one of the anthems of the annual Clearwater festival on the Hudson River. Blessed with a strong, soulful voice and a dynamic stage presence, Chris brings her early training as a gospel singer to the Strangelings powerful vocal mix. At the prestigious Falcon Ridge Festival in 2007, the group made a dramatic move, surprising the audience with a new, expanded lineup.

The addition of master percussionist Cheryl Prashker and young violin sensation Eric Lee launched the band into a larger arena, with a big, stage-filling sound that reaches to the far corners of the biggest festival site. The band discovered Eric in a jam session at a Falcon Ridge campsite, and plucked him off the hillside to join them on the main stage. Under a full moon, tens of thousands of fans danced and rocked to his incendiary solos, cheering wildly for the extra-sensory chemistry between the scorching fiddle and Pete's other-worldly electric sitar. In the final sum, however, it all comes down to the luminous blend of the three women in harmony... Falcon Ridge Producer and Creative Director Anne Saunders had this to say:

***"SENSATIONAL,
transcendent, beautiful, the
perfect Saturday night
closer in every way.
Truly astonishing!"***



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Recordings :



Season of the Witch, 2007

Venues:

2007, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Mainstage, Hillsdale NY

2007, PACE, Easthampton MA

2008, Me and Thee Coffehouse Marblehead, MA

(forthcoming)

2008, Outpost in the Burbs, Montclair, NJ

2008, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Mainstage, Hillsdale, NY

2008, Clearwater Festival, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

2008, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Mainstage, Hillsdale, NY

2008, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Philadelphia, PA



Photos: Neale Eckstein

