



LONE RAVEN CONSORT

Garnering rave reviews throughout the country, Lone Raven performs an eclectic blend of traditional music from around the world on a variety of unique, ethnic instruments. In addition to sharing the music of their ancestors, they delight audiences with a collection of award-winning, original compositions that have been featured on radio and television programs across the globe.

With over 20 instruments on stage, the band soars through everything from heartfelt Irish ballads to exhilarating Gypsy fiddle tunes, musically transporting listeners through breathtaking European landscapes. The excellent musicianship of each band member is apparent in every song, strengthened by the inclusion of multiple instruments, abundant energy, and a deep, personal connection to the music.

Kara's highly acclaimed vocals are showcased throughout each concert, with songs performed in English, Irish Gaelic and Latin. Passionate instrumentals are fueled by the twin fiddles of

Elizabeth Blickenstaff and Kara Markley, driven by an explosive rhythm section consisting of Craig Markley and Sid Omasta, and featuring the award-winning guitar playing of Neil Jacobs. Mike Dugger, the accomplished button accordionist, joins the line-up with an array of new melodies and creative arrangements.

“From fiery Irish reels to Gypsy fiddle tunes of Romania to haunting airs, this band does it all and does it well!”

-Celtic Roots

The band tours nationally throughout the entire year, playing at festivals, theatres and concert halls, thrilling crowds of all ages with their charismatic personalities and diverse repertoire. In addition to their regularly scheduled performances, their newest act, “Once Upon A Winter Moon,” features music celebrating the beauty and magic of the holiday season.



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LONE RAVEN CONSORT

“A musical journey that is, at the same time, an American creation and a child of the entire globe”

- Caliban Press

Kara Markley

Vocals, Fiddle, Whistle, Keyboards

Kara has been singing for as long as she can remember, highly influenced by the many genres of music her father, Craig, raised her with. She began taking fiddle lessons at the age of six, studying with renowned players such as Eileen Ivers, Natalie MacMaster and John McCusker. She has traveled and performed in England and Ireland as well as throughout the United States. Kara's love of ancient history and folklore greatly inspires her passion for traditional world music.



Elizabeth Blickenstaff

Fiddle, Mandolin, Vocals

Elizabeth began playing the violin when she was four years old, and she held the Concert Master position of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra in 1995. Because of her Suzuki background, she can quickly pick up a tune aurally and has been known to say: “If I can sing it, I can play it.” When Elizabeth is not performing, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters, two of which are Irish Dancers.



Neil Jacobs

12-String Guitar, Bouzouki, Prim, Tambura, Mandolin

Award-winning composer and performer best known for his mastery of the 12-string guitar, Neil draws inspiration from world tours and improbable experiences, including travels with the Gypsies of Spain, refugee war camps in the Balkans, and surreal “Cowboy TV” performances in Eastern Europe and Russia. His CDs have been nominated “Best Solo Guitar” and “Album of the Year” by the JPF and American Independent Music Awards.



Craig Markley

Keyboards, Accordion, Whistle, Guitar, Woodwinds, Bodhran, Percussion, Vocals

Craig is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and session musician. Coming from a varied background of rock, blues, funk and jazz, he has pursued an avid interest in Celtic and World music for the last twenty years, and has appeared on many recordings. Though his first love was the famed Hammond B-3 organ, he now plays a wide variety of contemporary and ethnic instruments.



Sid Omasta

Bass, Mandolin, Fiddle, Bouzouki, Guitar

Sid has always been fascinated by the magic of music. His tastes are usually quite eclectic, and strings are his preferred medium. In addition to the Lone Raven Consort, you might find him in a bluegrass band or playing Sinatra standards. He enjoys music thoroughly, has a great connection with his fellow musicians, and loves sharing new tunes. Sid and Craig performed together in the popular Celtic band, Stark Raven, for over twelve years.



Mike Dugger

Button Accordion, Guitar, Vocals

Mike was a founding member of Scartaglen, a Celtic supergroup featuring Connie Dover that toured for twelve years. He has taught fiddle classes at the Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina and Gaelic Roots at Boston College. Mike's sunny personality and honest nature are a compelling presence on stage and off. Though he lost the ability to play fiddle, tenor banjo and mandolin due to a hand injury, he still plays the guitar, sings, and has gained great facility on the button accordion.



“Whether performing their own compositions or unique arrangements of traditional material, Lone Raven’s five part vocal harmonies and diverse instrumentation takes Celtic Music on a new and exciting journey.”

-Dublin Irish Festival

DISCOGRAPHY

