

LONE RAVEN CONSORT

ONCE UPON A WINTER MOON



Imagine yourself in a warm cottage...

on a crisp winter evening. Everyone is sitting at the kitchen table as a glistening blanket of snow covers the countryside. The fire is crackling, the kettle boils, and mugs of hot tea are passed around. Someone begins to play a spirited tune on the fiddle, soon joined by an accordion and guitar. The floor is cleared for a lively dance. Songs are sung, jokes and stories drift through the air, and you are lost in the moment. Welcome to *"Once Upon A Winter Moon"*. Bring your dancing shoes!

With over 20 instruments on stage and a program featuring unique holiday music from around the world, the Lone Raven Consort enchants audiences with boundless talent and energy. From peaceful airs to Irish

"Once Upon A Winter Moon is akin to opening a treasure chest; jewel after jewel tumbles out"

- Carol Swanson
Christmas Reviews

lullabies and invigorating gypsy fiddle tunes, *"Once Upon A Winter Moon"* creates lasting memories and fills each listener's heart with holiday joy.



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The concept for “*Once Upon A Winter Moon*” was created after the release of the holiday CD of the same title, and the show has been performing live to enthusiastic audiences ever since. Father/daughter duo Craig and Kara Markley are joined by an array of talented musicians, including Elizabeth Blickenstaff, Neil Jacobs, Mike Dugger and Sid Omasta.

Kara Markley

Vocals, Fiddle, Whistle, Keyboards

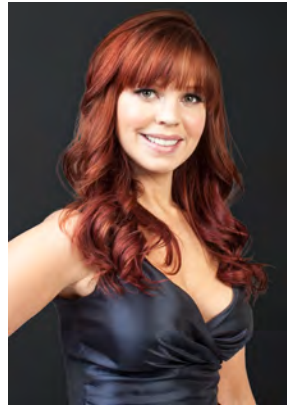
Kara has been singing for as long as she can remember, highly influenced by the many genres of music her father, Craig, raised her with. She began taking fiddle lessons at the age of six, studying with renowned players such as Eileen Ivers, Natalie MacMaster and John McCusker. She has traveled and performed 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.



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

-Caliban Press

DISCOGRAPHY

