

PRESS RELEASE ~ for immediate release:

January 12, 2004 (updated June 11, 2005)

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STORIES OF RHYTHM AND FANTASY CD RELEASED!

Stories of Rhythm and Fantasy, a CD of original stories and music by local storyteller and musician Sondra Singer, has just been released! Six years of writing plus one year in the studio produced a series of stories for children of all ages. These stories range from the eight-minute-long subtle Middle East peace story, *The Littlest Drum*, to the half-hour-long fantasy, *The Prince and the Gryphon or the Truth About Boredom*.

Examples of Summer Programs:

July 13, 2005 City of Ft. Collins, Lincoln Center Outdoor Summer Children's Series, 11AM. "Let's Make Noise" combines the original interactive story "Joy Madison Carter Makes Noise" with percussion games, singing, and dancing. For families with young children. With Helen Trencher. FREE.

July 30, 2005 Boulder County Fair, Longmont. 3:45PM. "A Tour of Africa in Story, Rhythm and Song." Sondra will be your tour guide to several countries on the African continent, sharing stories, songs, and rhythms native to each area. With Helen Trencher and Jim Grant. FREE.

August 5, 2005 Adams County Fair, 12 Noon. "Let's Make Noise" combines the original interactive story "Joy Madison Carter Makes Noise" with percussion games, singing, and dancing. For families with young children. With Helen Trencher. FREE.

August 27, 2005, City of Northglenn. 4:30PM. "Building Bridges, Stories and Songs About Getting Along." With Helen Trencher. Stories and songs with the theme of peace, of getting along with one another in this increasingly complicated world.

Sondra Singer has been performing her entire life and was a Speech/Theatre major in college, getting through school on a Theatre Talent Grant. In 1995, she discovered storytelling by taking a class from Boulder storyteller, Susan Marie Frontczak. Shortly thereafter, she discovered the hand drum by taking her first drum class from Ft. Collins percussionist, Gregory Long. These two seemingly chance encounters led to the journey of performing and writing, which has led Ms. Singer to conceive of and create the CD, *Stories of Rhythm and Fantasy*.

A year in studios in Denver and Lafayette culminated in the 72-minute-long CD that contains diverse and meaningful stories that many people can relate to. With a wry sense of humor that entertains while it engenders thought, Ms. Singer draws the listener in, whether on stage, or on this CD.

Here are some of the pre-release comments about this CD:

"Sondra is a gifted storyteller. She brings together her passions for storytelling and drumming in this CD. Her original tales invoke your imagination and pull you into a world of rhythm and fantasy. Drums, giants, princes, music, and rambunctious little girls all add up to a great CD for kids!"

-Rhonda Sheya, General Manager,
Radio Disney, Denver

"...creative, imaginative, Sondra is tuned in to the world and people around her, as well as the world far away. Joy Madison Carter is 'Everychild'."

-Joan Froede, Former host, "Storytelling,"
KGNU community radio, Boulder, Colorado

"Sondra's original stories, told with her beautiful voice and evocative rhythms, provide a delightful and thought-provoking journey into fantasy that is as vivid on this recording as it has been for her live audiences at the library."

-Carol Heepke, Program Coordinator,
Boulder Public Library

"Singer has developed a way with words...and noise. It's the perfect attention-getter, and it holds her young listeners rapt."

-Susan Froyd, Westword

Here is some background on the stories and music contained in the CD:

Joy Madison Carter Makes Noise 12:51

This story was the first written and performed by the performer. One day, she sat down at her computer to write a poem. What came out instead was this story about a little girl who likes to make noise. It has been a crowd pleaser from the first performance, grabbing each child's attention with noises, fun, and joy. The translation to CD allowed for more embellishment in the sound effects, which range from self-created effects like "crunchy peanut butter" to a drum composition in the woods scene, created by four drummers in the studio. This story is good for all ages.

The Littlest Drum 7:55

This story was written in 2000, but not performed live until 2003 for the first time, as part of a story peace program presented at the Winter Festival of Stories at the Boulder Public Library. Originally conceived of as simply a story with a Middle Eastern drum (she couldn't find any available stories with this type of drum in it), the tone changed after 9/11. It became a subtle story of peace between an Arab merchant and a young Jewish boy.

Cycles in Time 1:47

This is a drum composition that evolved from playing around with a rhythm that could be shortened, one beat at a time, without losing the integrity of the original "song." Although it is in 4 different time signatures, overlapping, it is danceable!

The Prince and the Gryphon or the Truth About Boredom 30:25

This full-length irreverent fairy tale was born in an improvisational storytelling class! Music was composed and played for the CD version by Josh Dember on violin and Tim Skurdahl on trumpet and accordion.

I've Got a Song in My Head 3:11

This original song was conceived from the idea that we all get those songs in our heads that get stuck there and won't go away! All percussion (four instruments) and both vocals are by Sondra Singer. She is supported on the piece by Judy Magidson on string bass, Doug Haywood (also the main engineer on the project) on guitar, and Bill Moore on mandolin. She hopes this song does get into your head!

Gerald the Giant 15:12

Gerald the Giant was written in March of 2003. All Sondra knew when she sat down to write, was that she wanted a peace story that would convey a strong message with humor and without preaching. This is the story that resulted from that idea. This is the only piece on the CD that does not have any accompanying music. It is the raw fantasy, voice only, which she hopes will drive the conclusion home for children of all ages, that we can all get along.

Sondra Singer is a member of the National Storytelling Network (storynet.org), the Rocky Mountain Storytellers' Conference, and The Rocky Mountain Storytellers' Guild. She has performed at numerous venues along the Front Range, including The Denver Zoo, the Denver Children's Museum, municipal events, festivals, schools, churches, synagogues, and libraries.

More information about the CD can be gleaned from the CD jacket and booklet, and from Ms. Singer's website at www.sondrasinger.com. The CD is currently available at Twist and Shout in Denver, at Full Moon Books in Lakewood, at Cultural Legacy Books in Northwest Denver, and on her website using PayPal. They can also be obtained at her performances and through her directly.

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