



about the CD . . .

Begun in 2004 with the late Québécois pianist and producer Denis Fréchette at his Studio Chemin No. 4 in Québec, Donna Hébert's **"In Full Bloom"** CD was released in July 2009. Dedicated to Denis' memory and that of Franco-American activist and singer Martha Pellerin, this recording is a heartfelt thanks to both of them.

The CD's 10 instrumental tracks are a stunning collection of French-Canadian and Franco-American music from a master fiddler's notebook, drawn from 40 years of collecting, teaching and performing.

When Denis passed away in 2008, the project was completed under the guidance of Québécois fiddler and producer Pascal Gemme and engineers Mark Busic, Rusty Annis and Mark Miller. Guitarist Max Cohen played on five tracks, also recording and editing several others. Max co-wrote the duo's audience favorite, "Raven's Wing," an air written in memory of Donna's father. [Read the full story of the raven and the Grand Canyon at <http://fiddlingdemystified.com/2008/12/ravens-wing/>]

Joining Max and Pascal on the CD are Québécois musicians **André Brunet** (fiddle, feet), **Rachel Aucoin** (piano), **Sabin Jacques** (diatonic accordions) and step-dancer and choreographer **Marie-Soleil Pilette**, who wrote and recorded the dancing for Donna's original waltz for daughter Molly, "Little Birds." Also playing are long-time colleague **Stuart Kenney** on acoustic bass with Liza Constable on guitar on "Fireside Reel/Two-Step D'Armand/Reel Beatrice."

Six of the 18 tunes played on the CD are from the repertoire of Vermont Franco-American fiddler Louis Beaudoin: "Blackberry Quadrille," "Son of a Bear," "La grandeuse," "La grande gigue simple," "Dad's Reel" and "Fireside Reel." Other tunes are from Québécois and Franco sources, including "Galoche Bouchard," "Valse joyeuse," "Hommage à Père Bruneau," "Les accordéonistes," "Les femmes," "Two-Step D'Armand" and "Reel Beatrice."

"Donna's best recording . . . un vrai délice!"
BENOIT BOURQUE

Donna Hébert

Franco-American
fiddler, singer,
songwriter

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Donna performs in a duo with
Max Cohen, guitarist
fiddlingdemystified.com/bands/donna_max_duo/

and also plays in four bands:

Groovemama: teaching the Great Groove Band at
Old Songs & Philly Folk Festivals
fiddlingdemystified.com/learn/greatgrooveband/

Chanterelle: Franco-American music and song with
Josée Vachon & Alan Bradbury
fiddlingdemystified.com/bands/Chanterelle/

The Beaudoin Legacy: Franco-American music, song
and dance with members of Vermont's Beaudoin family
www.beaudoinlegacy.com

Mist Covered Mountains: Celtic & contemporary
folk quartet with Molly Hebert-Wilson, Max Cohen and
Katherine First
mistcoveredmountains.com



Originals include CT fiddler Daniel Boucher's
"Circular Reel," Russ Barenberg's "Magic Foot," and Marcel Messervier's
"Les accordéonistes." Besides composing "Raven's Wing" with Max,
Donna also wrote "Reunion Gigue," "Little Birds" and the final (and only)
song on the recording, "A Place Called Beautiful."

The lyric was written from the words of Martha Pellerin
as she lay dying of ovarian cancer at age 37. Taking her husband's
hand, Martha said, "I've seen it. I'm going to a place called Beautiful.
They're waiting for me. My mother's here to take me there, and I'll be
here for you when it's your turn." Taking her words of hope, Donna
has created a message of comfort for the bereaved, fully supported
here by the spaciouly evocative piano of the late Denis Fréchette.

**All online sales of this song are donated to the Ovarian
Cancer Research Fund to find a reliable test for ovarian
cancer, often too far advanced for positive treatment by
the time it is discovered. Download also available from
placecalledbeautiful.org.**

about Donna . . .

Donna's CD release "In full bloom / En pleine floraison" shows Hébert at the top of her form, a true master of her fiddling genre. "Donna's best recording - un vrai délice!" says friend Benoit Bourque of La Bottine Souriante. "Donna is one of the great players - she does wonderful things with the music!" said Irish fiddler Seamus Connolly at a recent concert.

A 2008 Massachusetts Artists' Fellow in the Folk Arts for Franco-American fiddling, Donna Hébert was cited by Governor Deval Patrick at the 2009 Commonwealth Awards for her "outstanding artistic achievement." She learned style and repertoire from fiddlers Louis Beaudoin, Allan Block, Graham Townsend, Gerry Robichaud and many others. She has fiddled, sung and written tunes for seminal '70s contraband band Yankee Ingenuity and INDIE award-winning women's band Rude Girls. Recipient of eight NEA Master-Apprenticeship awards from New England arts councils, Donna has trained a community of Franco-American fiddlers to carry the tradition forward.

Twice documented on Smithsonian recordings, now Donna performs and teaches with Franco-American cultural group Chanterelle, in its 16th year, and triple-fiddle group Groovemama. She also teaches Fiddling Demystified workshops and coaches The Great Groove Band, which she founded in 1999 and directs at the Old Songs and Philadelphia Folk Festivals. Donna performs in a duo with Max Cohen and in a Celtic folk quartet called Mist Covered Mountains with Max and her daughter, Molly Hebert-Wilson and fiddler Katherine First. With fiddler George Wilson and members of Vermont's Beaudoin family, she performs in The Beaudoin Legacy, recently named to the NEA's American Masterpiece Roster. With them she is documenting, presenting and preserving the music of VT's Beaudoin family.

Named a Creative Teaching Partner by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Donna brings her Fiddling Demystified for Strings program into Massachusetts schools through the Council's Creative Schools Program. Adjunct fiddle instructor at Amherst College since 2002, Donna teaches at schools, colleges, festivals and summer camps.

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