



Maggie's Music

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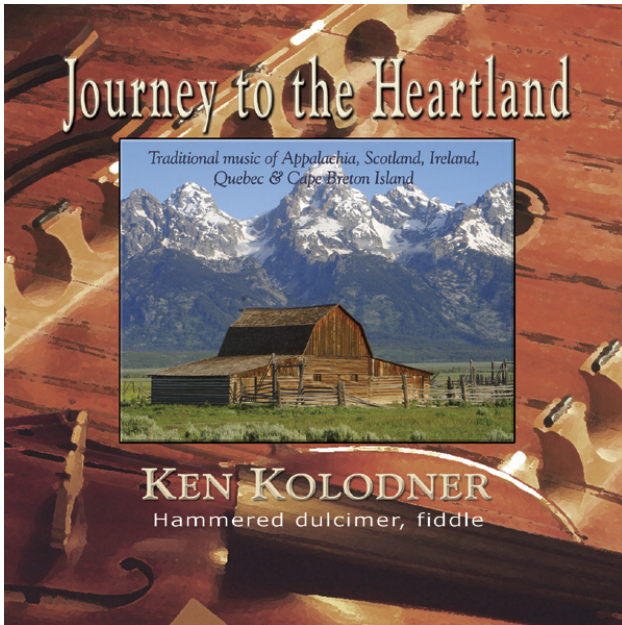
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PRESS RELEASE-MAGGIE'S MUSIC ANNOUNCES

Ken Kolodner, hammered dulcimer, old-time fiddle

CD- Journey to the Heartland, (MM231)



Maggie's Music announces the release of **Journey to the Heartland (MM231)** featuring Ken Kolodner, regarded as one of the most influential hammered dulcimer players today.

He also performs on old time fiddle and presents a repertoire of American Roots music from the Appalachian Mountains, Celtic music from Scotland & Ireland and music from the north country of Canada, Quebec, and Cape Breton Island.

Ken's musical style is expressive and conveys great rhythmic energy and swing. Ken is widely known for an expressive and improvisational style and for creative ensemble playing that appeals to audiences from many genres-bluegrass, Celtic to chamber folk (classical).

Ken, with the trio *Helicon* (with Chris Norman and Robin Bullock) and *Greenfire* (with Robin Bullock and fiddler Laura Risk) and in solo appearances, has toured extensively for twenty years throughout North America and Europe. Ken has been featured in nationally broadcast concerts on NPR, *All Things Considered*, German National Radio, on the CBC, and on the Voice of America.

His credits include an Emmy-nominated CBS-TV Christmas special as featured soloist, a 1997 recording that hit the top of the World Music charts and was a top seller for BMG in their Classical/World Music category and a 2000 recording with *Helicon* that won an "Indie" for Best Seasonal Recording.

ABOUT THE RECORDING: This recording brings together Ken's love of the traditional music from Quebec and Old Time music which share a great rhythmic energy, use of improvisations and a swinging jazz feel plus Ken's use of progressive chord progressions further enhances and enriches the music experience. Ken carry's on the folk process- learning tunes the traditional way – tunes passed down from generation to generation, from musician to musician - at Irish sessions, or sharing a tune with friends in their own home town pubs, at community folk gathering and jam sessions. It represents a community that covers a large geographic area but yet is a very close-knit community whose love of a good tune is shared by all.



GUEST MUSICIANS:

Ken is joined by guest musicians: Robin Bullock (Maggie's Music recording artist (CDs: *Between Earth and Sky* (MM221 and *Midnight Howl* (MM213) performs on guitar and mandolin; is a member (along with Ken Kolodner) in the Celtic groups: Helicon (Robin, Ken and flutist-Chris Norman) and Greenfire (Ken, Robin and Laura Risk), Paddy League performs on guitar, Laura Risk performs on fiddle. Elke Baker performs on fiddle and is a National Scottish Fiddle Champion.

Picture: "In Concert- Helicon",with Chris Normon on flute and Robin and Ken playing a twin fiddle duet.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

1. French- Canadian music -Reel Antoinette ;2. Appalachia music with old -time classics- Cuckoo's nest, down home waltz.;3. Original composition- Caspian's Return ;4. Celtic tunes from Cape Breton Island.

The hammered dulcimer is a trapezoid shaped music box with over 75 strings played with wooden mallets. It was brought to America by the early colonists and is well suited to traditional music with its diatonic tuning that blends well with fiddle, mandolin and guitar. Ken also is a well-respected old-time fiddler. Old-time music is a traditional music that developed in rural areas of the Appalachian Mountains.

ABOUT MAGGIE'S MUSIC:This is Ken's first recording on the Maggie's Music label. The label, an eight time WAMMIE winner (Washington Area Music Association) has been called "a gathering place for much Celtic-rootedand inspired acoustic music in the United States." (Thistle and Shamrock, Fiona Ritchie with over fifty recordings including the brightest stars on the folk and Celtic scene today (Al Petteway & Amy White, Bonnie Rideout, City of Washington Pipe Band; Ensemble Galilei; Hesperus Ensemble; Sue Richards, Maggie Sansone, Robin Bullock, Ceoltoiri Irish Band, Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts and Jody Marshall).