

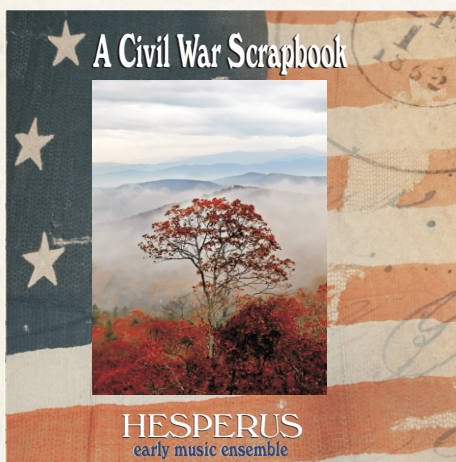


Maggie's Music

From the deep well of our ancient folk traditions

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NEW CD: *A Civil War Scrapbook* (MM236)

HESPERUS early music ensemble, Release Date: June 25, 2013

HESPERUS early music ensemble *commemorates the Civil War with a musical patchwork honoring the vitality of the American spirit.*

A Civil War Scrapbook presents a musical patchwork of hope and healing, longing and loss with airs and ballads, Irish jigs, Appalachian fiddle tunes, marches, spirituals and hymns, and parlor music from the time of the American Civil War played on fiddle, recorder, oboe, pennywhistle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, mouth bow, viol. bass and bodhran.

America's pioneer *chamber folk* ensemble, HESPERUS creates a crossover of early and traditional styles that spotlights the diversity of Early American music. This release is the fifth CD in the Early American Music series on the Maggie's Music label.

THE THEME: *A Civil War Scrapbook* focuses on a time of sharp contrasts: bitter regret and fragile optimism, when the memories of war were being laid to rest and Americans were just beginning to believe in a united future. The music on this recording reflects that complex, transitional moment. American popular music, like that of any country, is a hodgepodge of many genres—indigenous ones like the sacred harp hymns, spirituals and fiddle breakdowns, and imported ones like the French cotillions and quadrilles, Irish jigs and reels, and Scottish airs and variation sets.

We sample these delights using a variety of early and traditional instruments. Some arrangements are suited to the parlor, some to the dance hall. It's that easy mix of people and styles that makes this a quintessential HESPERUS recording; an early-traditional crossover band playing with enthusiasm and warmth.

PERFORMERS: HESPERUS members Tina Chancey (Director, fiddle, viol), Bruce Hutton (guitar, mandolin, harmonica, mouth bow) and Zan McLeod (guitar), with Kathryn Montoya (recorders, baroque oboe, and pennywhistle), Matthew Olwell (bodhran), Charlie Pilzer (bass), Chris Romaine (fiddle, banjo) and Maggie Sansone (hammered dulcimer).

RECORDING SOURCES: Produced by Tina Chancey, *A Civil War Scrapbook* features 17 tracks that capture the spirit of post-Civil War America. Engineer and co-producer Charlie Pilzer, Airshow Mastering, and Executive Producer and Maggie's Music CEO Maggie Sansone are also guest performers.

TRACK HIGHLIGHTS:

(Tr. 1) **When Johnny Comes Marching Home:** fewer songs better express the American experience;

(Tr. 2) **Booth Shot Lincoln:** with ragtime-like Minstrel show syncopations;

(Tr. 5) **Wondrous Love:** sacred harp hymn from the American South;

(Tr. 6) **All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight:** originally a poem based on a news report, set to music by John Hill Hewitt;

(Tr. 11) **Beautiful Dreamer:** beloved parlor song by Stephen Foster;

(Tr. 12) **Shule Aroon:** a melancholy Irish ballad, also popular in the Revolutionary War;

(Tr. 13) **Irish Washerwoman:** a timeless jig;

(Tr. 14) **Minstrel Boy:** patriotic song by Irish poet Thomas Moore;

(Tr. 15) **Yellow Rose of Texas:** 19th c. fiddle tune in parlor style.