



Cormorant's Fancy: brazenly trad

music of Ireland, Scotland, and the Celtic Nations

www.cormorantsfancy.com | www.facebook.com/cormorantsfancy | mail@cormorantsfancy.com

Venues and reviewers characterize Cormorant's Fancy as "spellbinding," "with a knack for gorgeous arrangements." The award-winning Celtic and Irish Music Podcast named them to 2017's top 20 Celtic bands! From tenderly passionate love songs to growling soul-rousers, and from captivating a cappella to swirling instrumentals blending concertina, fiddle, penny whistles, guitar, keyboards and bodhrán, Cormorant's Fancy propels audiences into the living Celtic tradition. Their compelling cross-generational lineup unites the past, present and future, so that whether they are stirring the crowd from the festival or concert stage, gracing the parlor, leading the pub in song, or accompanying step dancers, their music rings true. They've been called "the area's most energetic" Celtic band, yet they do it all with finesse! Lead singer and whistle player Margaret Folkemer is joined by parents Beth and Stephen Folkemer (guitar, concertina keyboards), fiddler Chuck Krepley and young percussionist Ricky Czar. Celtic music is in their blood, their heritage in Ireland's County Down, Clan Donald of the Scottish Isles, Wales and Cornwall. They visit their ancestral homes every chance they get!

Cormorant's Fancy versatile programming includes high-energy St. Paddy's parties/all-Irish Celebrations, authentic all-Scottish programs including Burns Suppers, fun sing-along events, romantic wedding sets, lively tunes for dancers and cèilidhean, laid-back restaurant sets, pumped-up pub shows, lovely Celtic Christmas programs, happy New Year's events (Hogmanay), engaging school presentations, and Celtic worship services too! Add to these endless combinations of the band's styles. Engaging and supportive teachers, they present an array of workshops as well.

Shortly after forming in September 2003, Cormorant's Fancy began playing as the Fairfield Inn's house band. Along with frequent appearances for Music, Gettysburg's Burns Nights and concerts, they've been featured as performers and workshop leaders at Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania, Northern Appalachian Folk Festival, Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering, Adams County Irish Festival, Adams County Heritage Festival, Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, McLain Celtic Festival, Penn-Mar Irish Festival, Heart of the Arts Festival, and Celebrate the Arts. Recently band members performed at folk festivals in Great Britain. Cormorant's Fancy has entertained for numerous concert series, college campuses, retirement villages, schools, churches, weddings and other events in PA, MD, VA, and NY. They play for eateries and pubs such as the Shamrock Restaurant (Thurmont, MD), and Hickory Bridge Farm (Orrtanna).



Cormorant's Fancy's released *A Different Bird* in July 2017. The band has recorded two other albums, *An Evening at the Fairfield Inn* (2006), and *Here and There* (2009).

The Great Cormorant is a black fishing bird native to Ireland and Great Britain. The band name reflects how this bird's name might entitle one of Chuck Krepley's fiddle tunes.

Margaret Folkemer's lilting soprano adds grace to her ballads, but she can belt out driving tunes as well. Along with her accomplishments as a vocalist, penny whistle player and pianist, she has studied oboe, and she helps to arrange music for the band. She is a soloist for the Music, Gettysburg! series, sings in the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg, and performs with Dearest Home. Margaret, who currently studies with renowned soprano Julianne Baird, graduated from McGill University's Schulich School of Music in Montreal, Quebec, where she performed in the medieval music ensemble, was featured in Gilbert and Sullivan productions and sang with Cappella Antiqua and other choirs. She performed and was a stage manager for Opera McGill. She has been a production manager and an assistant stage manager for the Green Mountain Opera Festival and a stage manager for Amherst Early Music Festival. She is the music director at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York, PA, a professional soloist, and an early childhood music educator.

Chuck Krepley's two great passions are music and history. Once a professional Bluegrass banjo player, he took up the fiddle in the 1980s. Chuck spent many years studying Scottish fiddle music, winning a couple of fiddle contests along the way. He has studied and performed historical music covering every period from the French & Indian War of the 1750s through the end of the American Civil War in 1865. Chuck was the music director for French and Indian War documentary film, Washington's First War: The Battles for Fort Duquesne, by Paladin Communications. Chuck is a member of Dearest Home. He performs and records with his own Civil War band, Home Front, and enjoys guest appearances with several other Civil War bands. He performs also with Celtic band Across the Pond. Mr. Krepley, a former research chemist, has completed an apprenticeship as a violinmaker in York, PA. Recently retired, he devotes his time and energy to his professional music endeavors and his wife Denise. He loves the vibrant exuberance and "soul" of Irish music!

Beth Folkemer, guitarist and vocalist, also plays mountain dulcimer and helps to arrange band material. Her love of Celtic music is the gift of her family, with roots in Scotland, England, Ireland Wales and Canada. Beth, Stephen, Margaret, Chuck and Chris Barnabei, performing as Dearest Home, research and present traditional music of PA and WV, traditional Appalachian music, and authentic Civil War Era music. Beth is the music coordinator for Gettysburg's Songs and Stories of a Civil War Hospital series. Along with her husband Stephen, she has written *Of the Land and Seasons: A Folk-Song Paraphrase Setting of Holy Communion*; currently they are editing their Celtic worship setting. Beth sings in the Schola Cantorum. She serves on the pastoral staff at Garden of Grace Community of Churches.

Stephen Folkemer, who declares his all-time favorite birthday present is his Hayden Duet Concertina, also plays keyboards and lends vocal and music-arranging support to the band. From 1979 to 2017, Stephen served as the music director at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where he was Professor of Church Music and Cantor. He is the organist and choir director at St. James Lutheran Church, West York, PA. Besides being the founder and director of the Schola Cantorum of Gettysburg., Stephen has composed and published numerous choral and organ works, along with writing many commissioned works for national as well as local and regional organizations. With his wife Beth he has written *Of the Land and Seasons: A Folk Song Setting for Holy Communion*. He performs also with Dearest Home.

Ricky Czar, percussionist, is the newest player for Cormorant's Fancy. Performing on bodhrán and a variety of other instruments, Ricky brings his natural, intuitive accompaniment style, as well as enthusiasm and good humor to every performance. Recently he played with the Junior ROTC for D-Day commemoration ceremonies in France. He studies business and music at Millersville University and Harrisburg Area Community College. You may also find him playing jazz in the Gettysburg area.

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Sample Special Programs and Workshops

Across the Pond: Celtic and the British
Isles' Songs in America

All's Celtic in Love and War

Backing Up Celtic Tunes

Beginning Pennywhistle

Celtic and Traditional Christmas

Celtic and Appalachian Christmas

Celtic New Year

Celtic Tunes (may be limited to Irish,
Scottish, etc., as desired):

Celtic Jigs

Celtic Reels

Celtic Slip Jigs, Waltzes and Airs

Irish (and/or Scottish) Sing-Along

Irish History in Song

Robert Burns Celebration

Saint Andrew's Day Scottish Celebration

Saint Patrick's Irish Party

Scottish Fiddle Technique

Scottish History in Song

Singing in Harmony

How to Sing

Worship services:

Celtic Holy Communion

Celtic Vespers

Wedding

Weddings

Because our band members have many talents besides playing spritely and gorgeous Celtic music, Cormorant's Fancy and our sister band, Dearest Home, offer many options to make your wedding as unique as you are, including. Below are a few of our services, as well as wedding styles and themes:

Organist/Pianist

Violinist/Fiddler

Soprano Soloist

Alto Soloist

Irish, Scottish, and/or other Celtic music

Old Time, Appalachian, and/or Civil War Era music

Classical music

Sacred music

Clergy Officiant

Ceremony Planning

Themed Weddings include, Celtic, Civil War Era (in period costume), Old Time, Classic, Eclectic, and more!

Contact

For more information, booking, and promotional materials please contact Stephen or Beth Folkemer at (717) 893-7863, (717) 253-4889, or mail@cormorantsfancy.com. Please visit Cormorant's Fancy at <http://www.cormorantsfancy.com> and www.facebook.com/cormorantsfancy.