



Photo by Steve Piper

Maria Gillard is a talented singer, songwriter, and educator from the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. She has been composing and performing for 25 years. Her compelling voice draws you into the lyrics which, when combined with memorable melodies, head straight for the heart. Her music has been described as soul stirring, evocative, contagious, lively and energizing. She has a down-home flair that makes you feel like you are in her living room; charming, warm and inviting.

Accomplishments:

Has been performing since 1982 in various capacities.

- Fronted The Black Turtle Band - a folk bluegrass band and the Maria Gillard Band a folk/swing outfit
- Deep Water – a quartet of blues, country and folk as well as toured as a solo act since 1990.
- Won the Bob Schwartz Memorial Songwriting Contest in 2003 for her song “Queen of the Highway”
- A Finalist at Kerrville New Folk competition for her songs “Aint No Middle Ground” and “Keep on Tryin”
- Resident Musician at The Omega Institute
- Also performed as a duo early in her career with Frank Meyer and later with Rita Coulter, a veteran of the Colorblind James Experience

As an educator, she has sung in school, nursing homes and conducted many workshops in songwriting, voice and guitar. She works as a music professor at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY and directs a vocal jazz ensemble of 15 students.

Venues performed:

WXXI Public Television
Passim, Boston, MA
Kerrville Folk Festival
Omega Institute
Gottagetgone Festival, Ballston Spa, NY

Turtle Hill Festival , Rochester, NY
Peterborough Folk Society
Folknet, Akron, Ohio
The Music Hall, Oswego, NY
Baltimore Folk Society

Press Quotes:

“A Straightforward unpretentious performer” –Vic Heyman, Sing OUT!

“She dives into what she sings, communication every word with conviction” –Rich Warren, WFMT, Chicago

“Extraordinarily clever songwriting, a torch carrier with an easy going style” –Jeff Spevak, Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester, NY

“One of the Northeast’s best kept secrets” –Deb McWethy, Peterborough Folk Society

“Maria is an absolute must for multigenerational festivals!” –Crested Butte Colorado Fall Fest

“Maria Gillard is one of the best folksingers in America today” –Tom Ball, WAPS Radio, Akron

Shared Bills with:

Kinloch Nelson
Dady Brothers
Chuck Brodsky
Michael Smith
Steve Key
Joe LaMay
Lisa Bigwood
Bernice Lewis

Opened for:

John McCutcheon
Cheryl Wheeler
Vance Gilbert
Loudon Wainwright III
Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem
The Burns Sisters
Cliff Ebberhardt
Aztec Two Step