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Michael DeLalla

There is One Story and One Story Only

FM-1014, CD/tape
 Produced by Michael DeLalla

About this Title

This celebration of Christmas, Winter Solstice & Winter Holiday music belongs in every collection. Michael has collected pieces from Celtic lands ("Christmas Day in the Morning", "Gloucester Wassail", "Drive the Cold Winter Away", "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Auld Lang Syne") to France ("Breton Carol", "Ding! Dong! Merrily On High") to the US ("Children Go Where I Send Thee") tied together by his taut arrangements. Also included is an original work based on the poem by Robert Graves "To Juan: At the Winter Solstice".

Guest artists abound, featuring many of the artists in the Falling Mountain catalog, including The Unfortunate Rakes, Mountain Lark, and Michael Fitzgerald. Also performing are Jihanna Carlton and Gordon Thomas of the Harambee Gospel Choir, Seth Austen, Ozymora, and the haunting vocals of Jana Vitols. Of course, Michael's guitar playing is also featured, from the virtuosic Ding!Dong! Merrily On High to the heart-rending dedication to a late friend on Auld Lang Syne. You will want to listen to this recording well beyond the holiday season, throughout the year.

About the Artist

Michael DeLalla has been a performing artist for almost 20 years, both as a soloist and ensemble player. Through most of the 80's he was the guitarist and principal composer with Ozymora, the seminal group described as "the cutting edge of New Acoustic Music" (National Public Radio). Since then he has been a mainstay with the Celtic trio The Unfortunate Rakes in addition to regular performances as a soloist. Michael's influences are many and diverse; his classical training is much in evidence, both in his guitar playing and his compositions while jazz and traditional world music interests are pervasive in his improvisations.

Discography

FM-1030	<i>Soli</i>	2000, CD only
FM-1014	<i>There is One Story and One Story Only</i>	1995, CD/tape
FM-1001	<i>And Then...Or Somewhat Later</i>	1991, CD/tape
	<i>with The Unfortunate Rakes</i>	
FM-1022	<i>The Strayaway Child</i>	1997, CD/tape
FM-1008	<i>Banish Misfortune</i>	1994, out of print

The Words of Others

“A sweet and beautiful Christmas/Yule/Hannukah album that fits in with any number of spiritual paths; 4 1/2 stars”

- All Music Guide

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FM-1014, CD/tape, Total Time 48:34

For interviews or other artist relations, please visit the artist page at our website, www.FallingMountain.com, for email links and contact info.

To the DJs: These program notes are designed to make it easier to quickly navigate the track information on this CD. We at Falling Mountain Music appreciate you taking the time to review new material and add it to your library, and we hope you enjoy the music.

PROGRAM NOTES

1. Christmas Day in the Morning (3:14)

While preparing for this recording, I had a dream in which I was playing with The Unfortunate Rakes. We heard in the distance the sound of approaching carolers and merry-makers. As they neared, we joined in on this wonderful melody from the Shetland Islands. The segment at the beginning is actually my children with their many cousins on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.

Chas. Fowler: penny whistle • Bruce Wilkin: fiddle • Abbe Mulvena: flute • Michael DeLalla: guitar • Beth Benedetto: Recorder

2. Gloucestershire Wassail (2:57)

"Wes hal" is Anglo-Saxon for "be whole" or "Good health". Wassailers would carol through town with a decorated bowl, collecting food and drink along the way.

Michael DeLalla: guitar, vocals • Laura First: vocals • Beth Benedetto: vocals • Bruce Wilkin: vocals • Abbe Mulvena: flute • Chas. Fowler: penny whistle

3. Veni, Veni Emanuel (5:46)

This piece was already known in the 13th Century, though the text is probably much older. Jana and I decided to perform it using both the Latin and English texts.

Jan Vitols: vocals • Michael DeLalla: classical guitar

4. Ding!Dong! Merrily On High (2:49)

Carols were originally dance tunes. Dating to the 16th Century, this French piece was originally a Branle, a dance that the nobility embraced in imitation of their servants' folk dancing.

Michael DeLalla: guitar • Abbe Mulvena: flute

5. Drive the Cold Winter Away (4:00)

Chas' plaintive whistle, with a quartet of E-bowed guitars, is the sonic embodiment of Winter's dark chill.

Michael DeLalla: Guitar, E-bowed guitars • Chas. Fowler: penny whistle

6. Children Go Where I Send Thee (5:44)

A fine example of a "calling tune" in the African-American tradition. The text may have been used to encode messages and directions for travellers on the Underground Railroad.

Jihanna Charlton, Gordon Thomas: vocals

7. Breton Carol/La Maraichine/Avant-deux des Travers/Un Flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle (4:40)

The two dance tunes in the middle have become a staple in concerts by The Unfortunate Rakes. At the beginning is a beautiful piece from Brittany; closing the set is the well-known carol from Provence.

Chas Fowler: penny whistle, smallpipes • Bruce Wilkin: fiddle, vocals • Michael DeLalla: guitar, bodhran, vocals

8. O Come All Ye Faithful (4:13)

First appearing in the 1700's in Jacobite services, this piece became one of the most beloved hymns after an arrangement by Thomas Greaterex. Commissioned by the Duke of Leeds, it premiered for Choir, Soloists and Orchestra.

Michael DeLalla: classical guitar

9. To Juan: At The Winter Solstice (7:00)

It soon became the centerpiece of many of our concerts. Marc, Jim and Craig were gracious enough to reunite the group to record behind Jana. Rounding out the arrangement is Seth Austen on drum.

Jana Vitols: vocals • Michael DeLalla: guitar, vocals • Craig Matovich: oboe, English horn • Marc Sims: mandolin • James Baird: bass • Seth Austen: frame drum

10. Winter Song (1:03) /11. Auld Lang Syne (7:08)

Dedicated to Jim.

Michael Fitzgerald: poetry reading • Jim Pusey: bass • Michael DeLalla: percussion, classical guitar