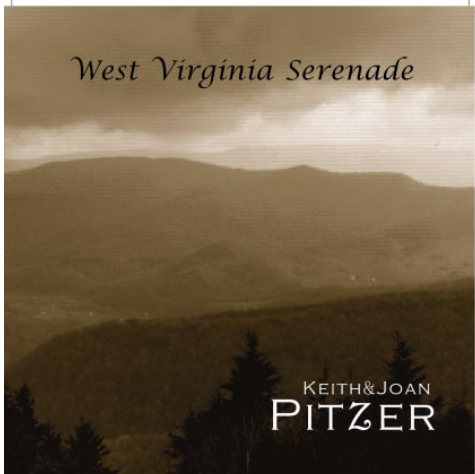




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The Words of Others

“Keith & Joan Pitzer, alone and especially together, are fine singers... his vocals will remind listeners - just a tad - of Gordon Lightfoot.... great guitar work, solid vocals... with fine originals like Keith's ‘Living Out There’ ”
- Sing Out!

Keith & Joan Pitzer

West Virginia Serenade

FM-1039, CD only
Produced by Keith Pitzer

About this Title

West Virginia Serenade is a warm, intimate look into the Pitzers' world tucked into the folds of the Mountain State's hills. Keith's incisive songwriting covers a wide swath of emotional landscape, celebrating a deep connection with nature and the places, people and times he and Joan have known. The 15 tracks include 3 traditional tunes, 3 fine instrumentals, and "Do Still Waters Still Run Deep", their award-winning tune in the 2002 Mountain Stage NewSong Festival performing songwriter contest. The rich vocal blends, fine flatpicking and elegantly understated adornments of whistles, mandolin and bass frame a spellbinding lyrical and musical meditation on Appalachian beauty: an audio tour through a special place for solace and reverie. Like the hillside seeps springing forth from the mountains destined to join the Cheat River below, *West Virginia Serenade* indeed runs deep, taking the listener through tempestuous rapids and contemplative flatwaters, delivering you at journey's end someplace wholly different than where you started.

About the Artists

For over two decades Keith & Joan Pitzer have been blending their rich vocal harmonies with skillful acoustic guitar and bass, embellished with harmonica or pennywhistle. Keith's rich baritone evokes a contemporary Appalachian Stan Rogers singing over his fine and fancy flatpicked guitar, while Joanie's sweet alto draws from the dulcet tones of fair Ireland as much as their surroundings. While their own West Virginia-inspired originals are always a highlight, the couple easily traverses a wide range of traditional Celtic and American folk music, infusing it with their own special reverence for the music and a maturity that comes from over two decades of marriage, family and performing. From their remote mountaintop home overlooking northern West Virginia's rugged landscape, the Pitzers music is a natural extension of the joys and difficulties of Appalachian life.

Discography

FM-1039	<i>West Virginia Serenade</i>	2004, CD only
FM-1033	<i>The Long Journey</i>	1995, CD/tape

Keith & Joan Pitzer

West Virginia Serenade

FM-1039, CD only, Total Time 56:46

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

All songs written by Keith Pitzer except where otherwise noted.

1. WV Serenade 1:41 - instrumental

A meditation on mountains and rivers, an audio trip to a special place for solace and reverie.

Keith - guitar, harmonica • Joan - fretless bass

2. Hot Day In July 3:13 - bluegrass

A mostly fictional story of hard love in hard times.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, vocal • Joan - bass

3. Living Out There 4:50 - uptempo folk

Celebrating a deep connection with nature that living in rural Appalachia makes possible.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, vocal • Joan - bass, harmony vocal

4. Lily of the West 3:56 (trad.) - uptempo folk

A traditional song first learned from an early Joan Baez recording.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, harmony vocal • Joan - bass, vocal

5. Rowlesburg Rag 1:32 - instrumental; bluegrass

A guitar instrumental written for the little town in a bend of the Cheat River.

Keith - guitar • Joan - fretless bass

6. Flatlands 5:21 - folk

Looking back at growing up in southern Ohio farm country and realizing the past is past in many ways.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, vocal • Joan - fretless bass

7. Leaving In the Morning 3:37 - slow folk

Written while on the road, commiserating with those that work away from home. This is a common situation with men in West Virginia.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, bass • Joan - vocals

8. Another Day 5:05 - medium folk

A walk down the winding paths of relationships.

Keith - guitar, vocal • Joan - fretless bass

9. Ned of the Hill 2:41 (trad.) - instrumental; slow Celtic air

I don't remember where we found this, possibly in a penny whistle book. It uses the unusual blend of penny whistle and harmonica. I always imagine two Irish immigrants playing this tune, one on the traditional Irish penny whistle, the other on the American "mouth harp."

Keith - guitar, harmonica • Joan - fretless bass, penny whistle

10. Going Home for Christmas 4:24 - slow folk

Laments the loss of wholesome innocence our own spent youth. This seems all the more striking while visiting old friends and reliving past times.

Keith - guitar, harmony vocal • Joan - fretless bass, vocal

11. Do Still Waters Still Run Deep 4:10 - slow folk

Rivers provide analogies for many of life's situations.....the flow of a river, the flow of a relationship.

Keith - guitar, vocal • Joan - fretless bass, harmony vocal

12. Black Is the Color 4:18 (trad.) - medium folk

This old song has crossed the ocean many times.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, bass, vocal • Joan - harmony vocal, penny whistle, percussion

13. Underneath a Blackened Moon 4:03 - uptempo minor key folk

Inspired by the story of Larry Gibson on Kayford Mtn. in southern West Virginia who is working to save his land from mountaintop removal coal mining. I was struck with an image of a land so tainted by coal mining that even the moon would be blackened.

Keith - guitar, mandolin, vocal • Joan - fretless bass, harmony vocal

14. The Way Things Are 5:53 - slow folk

The chorus of this song is: "The way things are and the way things could be." Each verse is a slice of the frustration of life. If we could right the wrongs we otherwise endure...

Keith - guitar, mandolin, vocal • Joan - fretless bass, penny whistle, harmony vocal

15. Shavers Fork 2:02 - slow guitar instrumental

This piece is a meditation on this beautiful headwater stream in the Cheat Watershed.

Keith - guitar