



Who we are.... and what we do.....

Concerts & Stage Shows

Musical performances include traditional folk tales from many cultures, historical tales, original stories, a bit of outrageous wisdom gained of experience and shameless whoppers about eccentric people and strange animals. Audience sing-alongs, guitar, banjo, autoharp, mountain dulcimer, stand up and a one-string pickin' tub bass are musical highlights. Performances combine music with an educational mission. The audience is lead on an enjoyable journey though music from early settlers into the Westward Expansion through to today's musical expressions. Working in the traditional bluegrass format of banjo, guitar, string bass, the duo draws on material from folk, hillbilly, bluegrass, traditional country and mountain music with a fussion of whatever musical genres that seem to fit effectively. Many of *Me & Martha's* signature songs explore the universal themes of everyday life in rural America.

Appalachian Square & Round Dances

(for social gatherings and weddings)

Don grew up playing and calling traditional Appalachian square and round dances. So if you are ready to get out on the floor, Martha and Don can liven up your social event with some circle mixers and square dancing that will get your guests off their chairs and onto the dance floor. It's a fun way to meet the other people in your party and make lifelong friends. All square and round dance instruction are provided.

Educational Programs/Roots Music History

What did people do for entertainment before electricity?

Specific programs are designed for grades k-12 and post secondary education. We offer curriculum development for specific topics from music/movement to historical and cultural studies. Martha has a background in elementary and early childhood education and loves to work with people of all ages. Don and Martha present ballads collected in Appalachia and other cultural and community heritages that are often passed on through music. They entertain and discuss sources and personal impressions of these song and stories that often deal with day to day living, work or the challenges of true love.

Workshops & Seminars

Martha and Don explore and explain their own folk processes as music makers, their musical instruments and cover topics including music theory, chord progressions, musical arrangements, and the impact of socio/cultural influences on American music. To help illustrate major points, their light-hearted discussions and songs can be played in an open jam session with individual or group instruction available.

About us...

Martha Hills along with her eight brothers and one sister grew up in Maine on a farm just outside of Belfast. Her family roots trace back to the Mayflower with family ties to the local rural working community for several hundred years. She fell in love with acoustic roots music in the early 1990's and has been playing up-right bass since 2002. Her bass playing provides a solid bottom for *Me & Martha's* musical excursions. Martha's love of life and her effervescent semblance and infectious smile are delightful as she adds quips and adds occasional harmony to the performance.



Don DePoy is a master musician on several stringed instruments, with an inventiveness that is a rarity, even among the great traditional musicians. In 1957 at age eight, he became a regular member of his father's band, *The Mountain Music Makers*. As a 5th generation musician originally from Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, he continues to play the music of his Appalachian roots. He is an accomplished bluegrass banjoist and "thumb-picking" guitar player and has appeared as a featured performer at the Philadelphia Folk Festival as well as appeared on numerous recordings and performances throughout the United States and abroad. Don was the executive producer for *Mainely Bluegrass*, a 26-part TV series airing over public television in New England. He has been on faculty for over 20 years, holds a masters degree in education and a Ph.D. in popular culture and American music, writes on the subject of bluegrass music and is on faculty at New England School of Communications in Bangor.



During the summer you will find Martha and Don playing music aboard the sailing vessel *Viva* and operating *SailViVA*, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization docking at Belfast City Landing (www.sailviva.org).

Members of the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame

Me & Martha



As 2005 inductees into the **Old Time Country Music Hall Of Fame**, we continue the tradition of keeping the music of the past alive. For the most part the music we play is anywhere from 30 to 300 years old and represent songs from the Appalachian regions, folk and bluegrass standards, and an occasional sea shanty. We pick songs that tell about the many untold stories of life. Some songs are peppy and happy while others tell of human weakness and tragedy. The selections and simple arrangements of our material compel the audience to become absorbed in the music as each story unfolds. *Me & Martha* interlace patterns of musical panache with subtle nuances to provide a glimpse into the world of the music makers. "Their stage rapport with each other and the excitement brought to every song are captivating as they take the listeners on a musical journey. The audience certainly enjoyed *Me & Martha's* music as much as they enjoy making it." Iowa Free Press.

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America's Rural Roots Music

Folk • Mountain Music • Hillbilly • Bluegrass • Americana

- Concerts & Stage Shows

- Educational Programs
Roots Music History

- Workshops & Seminars

- Traditional Appalachian
Square and Round Dances



Music Makers



Me & Martha

Don DePoy & Martha Hills

We Make Music come Alive...