

Donna Hébert & Max Cohen

"They are really a treat – fabulous musicians with a wonderful way of playing together."

Jay Ungar, Dancing on the Air, WAMC.FM

Donna Hébert's fierce fiddle rhythms and Max Cohen's impeccable groove guitar link for a thrilling experience. Concerts draw from Donna's 40 years of French-Canadian and Celtic fiddling in programs shared equally with Max's effervescent guitar solos and originals. Playing together since 2005, the duo forms the core of six musical ensembles playing Celtic, French-Canadian and Appalachian Old-Time music along with their original tunes and songs.

Donna and Max have an amazing musical chemistry. Their joint composition, *Raven's Wing*, is a prime example of the magic that happens when they get together. Irish fiddle icon Seamus Connolly says: *"Donna is a gem - one of the best. I also think the 'Raven's Wing' she and Max have written is a brilliant tune!"* Written for Donna's father, who passed away in 2008 while the band was visiting the Grand Canyon, *Raven's Wing* has become an audience favorite.

Donna's tunes flow effortlessly from her bow and she's sure to charm the crowd with her many hilarious stories. With understated grace and precise timing, Max's guitar offers up the spotlight and allows the fiddle to soar. His playing is featured on Donna's new *In Full Bloom* CD, which also includes duets with Québécois fiddlers André Brunet and CD producer Pascal Gemme.

They compose, perform and teach as a duo and also perform with Celtic quartet *Mist Covered Mountains*, featuring fiddler Katherine First and Donna's daughter, vocalist Molly Hébert-Wilson. Their second Celtic group, *The Irish-French Connection*, with Irish accordion icon John Whelan and guitarist Flynn Cohen, is filling dates in the northeast beginning in June 2010. Every summer Donna and Max teach the Great Groove Bands for young musicians with *Groovemama* cohorts at Old Songs and Philadelphia Folk Festivals. Max and Donna also teach summer camps at Old Songs near Albany NY.

Donna was cited in 2009 by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick at the Commonwealth Awards for *"outstanding artistic achievement"* as a Franco-American fiddler. She was named a 2008 Massachusetts Artists Fellow in the Folk Arts by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which also featured Donna and Max in a *Keepers of the Flame* showcase concert at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington MA. Donna is a Creative Teaching Partner, certified by the Council for fiddling residencies in Massachusetts schools, using the pedagogy she's developed in her *Fiddling Demystified* instructional series. *"Donna gets it all right!"* says Darol Anger in his foreword to Volume I of *Fiddling Demystified for Strings*. *"I suspect that the general level of fiddle knowledge and playing will take a major uptick soon after this book is published, just as other great music books such as Earl Scruggs' original banjo book, O'Neill's great Irish fiddling reference, and the infamous jazz Real Book influenced the course of musicians' lives and work."* Adjunct fiddle instructor at Amherst and Springfield Colleges, Donna directs summer folk music camps at Old Songs Community Center in upstate NY, including *Fiddling Demystified Camp* with Irish fiddler Liz Carroll and *French-Canadian Music & Dance Camp* with Pascal Gemme. The camp brochure is online at www.oldsongs.org/camps.html.

Max is long respected as a guitarist, singer and songwriter in the New England folk music scene. A Kerrville finalist, he continues to astound listeners with his fingerstyle artistry. In addition to playing in duos with Donna and Katherine First, he performs and records with folk legend Priscilla Herdman and is in great demand with fiddlers in the northeast. Dar Williams used him on her debut album and says, *"I love Max!"*, a sentiment clearly echoed by everyone he plays with. With Donna, Katherine and their bands, Max is moving deeper into traditional music. He teaches guitar at summer camps for adults and children at Old Songs near Albany NY and coaches youth performances at Old Songs, Philadelphia Folk and Champlain Valley Folk Festivals. After several years of producing CDs (for Donna, Katherine, singer-songwriter Richard Berman and others) Max has engineered and released his second guitar CD, *In the Wood*. The new release blends brilliant solos and multi-layered originals with traditional fiddle melodies played from his unique perspective as a world-class fingerstyle guitarist.



"Donna's 'In Full Bloom' is un vrai délice!"
Benoit Bourque, La Bottine Souriante

In Full Bloom is *"a dancer's delight, whimsically carnivalesque"*
SING OUT! Summer 2010

"A substantial contribution to the growing field of fiddling pedagogy," says Laura Risk in her Sept. 2009 Strings Magazine review, *"Donna Hébert's Fiddling Demystified should be required reading for all string teachers hoping to branch out into fiddling."*

"Max Cohen can drive a band or set a ballad as well as any guitarist I've ever heard."

– Bob Franke, singer & songwriter

"An endearing and inspiring performer. I love Max!"

– Dar Williams

"Max creates an impressive range of beautiful and expressive sounds on the guitar. He is a player of sensitivity and subtlety." – Keith Murphy, Nightingale

"Max Cohen is an exceptional fingerstyle guitarist who plays not only with great skill, but also with grace, intelligence and heart. He's a joy to work with and brings out the best in all of us who perform with him." – Priscilla Herdman

contact: Donna Hébert - 413-230-3107 / 413-658-4276

donna@fiddlingdemystified.com



/bands/donna_max_duo/ - Donna and Max pages
Donna's fiddle site with bands, free tunes and lessons
Max: guitaristmaxcohen.com