

Mary Flower



Mary Flower, a 2008 Blues Music Award Nominee for “Acoustic Artist of the Year,” is renowned for a uniquely personal vision of roots music that blends ragtime, acoustic blues, and folk styles. Technically dazzling yet grounded in the down-to-earth simplicity of early 20th century American music, Mary boasts more stylistic diversity than just about any other artist currently performing under the “acoustic blues” banner.

Flower has earned rave reviews from critics and audiences alike for her natural, unassuming vocals, but it’s her instrumental skill — a mastery of the difficult Piedmont blues guitar style that takes most players a lifetime to hone — for which Flower is most celebrated.

Her fingerpicking forms the basis of a heavily syncopated, ragtime-based style wherein the thumb plucks a strong rhythmic base as the fingers etch out the melody. Mary also excels at lap slide guitar, allowing her to infuse her songs with a supremely delicate, plaintive sound that’s hers alone while recalling the blues giants of the past.

Having finished in the top three at the National Fingerpicking Guitar Championship and appeared on radio programs such as *A Prairie Home Companion* and played at numerous folk and blues festivals including the Kerrville Folk Festival, King Biscuit Blues Festival, and Merlefest, Flower is in demand for festivals, concerts and guitar workshops on both sides of the Atlantic.

PRESS QUOTES

“Unassuming blues heroine Mary Flower proves one again that she’s one of the nation’s premier fingerstyle blues guitarists — her technique is exceptional throughout, and in the end, serves the highest purpose, the music...unfailingly sweet, hot and sassy — every track on this album has something about it that will give you the shivers...This is one of the most satisfying albums of the year.”

—ALL MUSIC GUIDE TO BLUES

“Flower, a world-class fingerstyle and lap-slide guitarist, weighs in on the close relationship between folk-blues and early jazz ...” —DOWNBEAT

“Transcends classification... an amazing talent that can bring an image to the mind with her playing.” —FOLKWAX

“With her immaculate guitar playing and warm contralto, Mary Flower finds the sweet spot between modern and rootsy in twelve tunes bred of back porches, parlors, streetcorners, juke joints and country churches...one of the best blues-based singer songwriters working today.” —ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE

“Stunning... Providence must have kissed each individual finger on the hands of Mary Flower.” —CASCADE BLUES

www.maryflower.com

2008 HANDY AWARD NOMINEE
ACOUSTIC ARTIST OF THE YEAR

RECORDINGS

Blues Jubilee
Rosewood & Steel
Honey from the Comb
Ladyfingers
Ragtime Gal
Bywater Dance
Instrumental Breakdown
Bridges

INSTRUCTIONAL DVDs

Blues Guitar Arrangements
Crash Course in Open Tunings
Fingerstyle Blues in E
Ragtime Guitar
Arrangements in Dropped-D Tuning

FESTIVALS

Merlefest, Edmonton Blues Festival, King Biscuit Blues Festival, Kerrville Folk Festival, Waterfront Blues Festival, Calgary Folk Festival, Sisters’ Folk Festival, Blind Willie McTell Festival, Bumbershoot, Mississippi Valley Blues Festival, Ottawa Blues Festival, Toronto Blues Festival, Winnipeg Folk Festival, Gamble Rogers Festival

RADIO

Prairie Home Companion, *E-Town*, BBC Radio, *Woodsongs*

VENUES

Freight and Salvage, *Cafe Lena*, *Calliope Folk Music Series*, *Epcor Acoustic Blues Series*, *Good Coffeehouse*, *San Luis Obispo Folk Music Society*, *The Ark*, *Mississippi Studios*, *Tin Angel*, *Godfrey Daniels*, *Swallow Hill Music Association*, *Littleton Town Hall Arts Center*, and many more...

EDUCATIONAL

Fur Peace Ranch, *Augusta Heritage Center*, *Swannanoa Gathering*, *Puget Sound Guitar Workshop*, *Centrum Country Blues Workshop*, *European Blues Association*, *Accent on Music*, *International Guitar Seminars*, *Steve Kauffman’s Acoustic Camp*, *SAMW*, *Blues in the Schools*