

Judy Collins in Concert: Bring the Whole Family

Over fifty years ago, Judy Collins came to fame in the folk revival of the early 60's, and she's still going strong, loving her work, and singing with as much soulful intimacy and beauty as ever.

Judy Collins began her impressive music career at 13 as a classical piano prodigy under the tutelage of noted conductor Antonia Brico. Her focus remained on the classics until the passion and sensitivity of folk revival music of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger inspired her to a lifelong love affair with the guitar and the pursuit of emotional truth in lyrics.

Seeking that truth, Collins began embracing the work of her contemporaries. Her 1966 release "In My Life," contained the song "Suzanne" by an unknown Canadian poet and novelist named Leonard Cohen. Her success with "Suzanne" helped establish Cohen's career as a singer-songwriter. He returned the favor when it was Cohen's encouragement that gave Judy the confidence to start writing her own songs.

Joni Mitchell was another singer-songwriter whose career Judy Collins helped launch. Judy fell in love with Mitchell's song, "Michael from Mountains" and did a beautiful job recording it on her album "Wildflowers" which was entered into the 1967 Grammy Hall of Fame. On the flip side of "Wildflowers" was another Joni Mitchell song, "Both Sides Now." In 1968, Judy Collins won a Grammy for her hit single of "Both Sides Now."

Collins also had a hit single with the a cappella hymn "Amazing Grace" and with Stephen Sondheim's "Send in the Clowns" which led to a Song of the Year Grammy in 1975.

With a voice as intimate and beautiful as ever, Judy Collins is an icon and an inspiration. Her hugely popular 2015 release "Strangers Again" contains duets with Willie Nelson, Jackson Browne, Jeff Bridges and others. In her duet with Jimmy Buffet on the song "Someday Soon," a song sung by a young woman, Judy Collins sounds not only youthful but still full of the spunk and spirit that makes her so endearing. On her 2016 release "Silver Skies Blue,"

Judy Collins performs duets with Ari Hest who wrote the title song for “Strangers Again.”

Judy Collins continues to create music that lights up the world and speaks to the heart. “It’s almost unheard-of for a pop soprano in her 70s to surpass her younger self in stamina, precision of intonation and vocal command. But that was what Judy Collins, 77, did at Thursday’s opening-night show of her latest engagement at Café Carlyle. The evening was particularly intense because of the death of her friend Leonard Cohen.” –Stephen Holden, NY Times 11/16

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