

## Sea of Stars

This project has been a labour of love and hard work. There were times when I thought about calling it "Warts and All," but Dave and Mew reminded me that music is for joy, not for perfection. So, in the fine tradition of filk, we proceeded using the expertise available. Special and heartfelt thanks are due to:

Dave Hayman, because without him none of this project would have happened. He's organized, keeps records and loves me to death – enough to commit both the time and money to completing this and giving me good honest criticism along with the love. "somewhere I have never travelled...": that's Dave. He is my first and favourite audience, always;

Peggi Warner-Lalonde, Ken Lalonde and Glenn Simser, for encouraging me to "get on with it," for providing the first opportunities to do so, and for some great ideas that we kept;

Freddy, aka Downtown Freddy Brown, who believed in the art of the possible and made it come true, even when he thought I was nuts;

Mary Ellen Wessels, Diana Huey and Heather Borean, for liking my songs and giving me love and encouragement. The gift of their friendship is truly a light in my life;

Mary Ellen and her pesky husband, Ed Stauff, who drove all the way to Hamilton from New England

to record with me – for friendship's sake – and whose work is so achingly beautiful;

Garvin Farr, my superb voice teacher, for ongoing "wart removal" and hours of magical music;

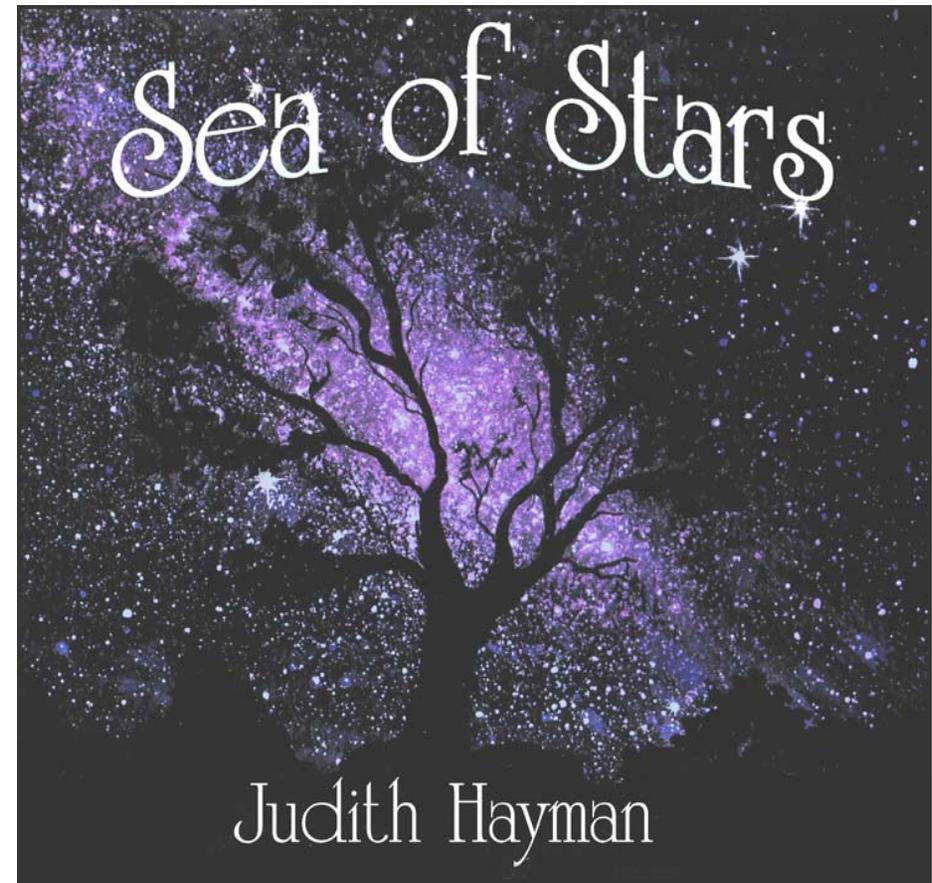
Sandi Marie, for creating cover art that I love, and Gayle McCaskill, for buying that art, hanging it where I could see it and then giving it to me. It has inspired me every day.

Jennifer and Richard Hayman, who put up with the disruption and not much of Mom or Dad while I did this, who had no clue how to explain it to their friends, but who supported me all the way. They are the two finest young people I could ever have hoped for. An extra hug to Jenn for hauling her clarinet out of retirement;

The UFO community of filkers for years of wonderful caring and fine filk.

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## Notes on the Songs

**Aux Étoiles** © 1992. This song was written in both official languages of Canada, at the time of the first Québec separation referendum. My hope is that we will survive as one culturally diverse nation long enough to venture – together – out there.

*Harmony vocals:* Mary Ellen Wessels  
*12 string guitar & doumbek:* Judith

**Someone's Mom** © 1995. I'm a mom. This is what it's like. The stories are all true...

*12-string guitar:* Judith

*Bass:* Downtown Freddy Brown

**Moonheart** © 1995. This song was based on the novel *Moonheart* by Charles de Lint who has done me the honour of pronouncing the lyrics "acceptable." It seems strange to capture the exchange of melody between Taliesin and Sarah, and the power and magic of music.

*Classical guitar & bodhran:* Judith  
*Recorder:* Heather Borean

**Outward Dream** © 1998. This song won the 1998 OVFF Song Contest on the theme "Dreams." The visual images were drawn from the movie, *Apollo 13*, and in Robert Sawyer's novel, *Starplex*.

*Classical guitar:* Judith  
*Keyboard:* Ed Stauff

**Let It Be Writ** © 1993. This was inspired by both my love of medieval music and imagining the death of a true love.

*Classical guitar:* Judith

*Recorder:* Mary Ellen Wessels

**The Last Step** © 1993. This song demanded to be written. It's based on my favourite media SF character, Lt. Ellen Ripley, in the closing moments of *Aliens*<sup>3</sup>.

*12-string & classical guitars:* Judith

*Bass:* Downtown Freddy Brown

**Dream On . . .** © 1995. This was a baby gift written for Persis Thorndike & Spencer Love, as "a rocking song for Talis Margeurite." Talis will be getting half the songwriting royalty, so this should help put her through day care.

*Harmony vocals:* Mary Ellen Wessels

*Piano:* Ed Stauff

**Kangaroos in California** © 1995. One night on the news they said that the kangaroos in Australia were forced from their normal ranges because of forest fires. "Where would they go?" I wondered. The answer seemed quite sensible at the time. Add an overdose of new age goofiness and some wonderful road trips. This song is rife with in-jokes.

*Midi track, banjo, lead solo and "The King":*

Downtown Freddy Brown

*Backup vocals:* Urban Tapestry (Allison Durno, Jodi Krangle, Debbie Ridpath Ohi)

**Fair Folk** © 1993. I come by Celtic inspirations honestly as my family background is Irish & Scottish and that's the music I heard most of my childhood. The Irish little people were neither cute nor sweet. Not at all. This was inspired by my late Irish father, for whom the fair folk were very real.

*12-string guitar:* Judith

*Bodhran:* Howard Scrimgeour

**Lost Chances** © 1993. An *ST:TNG* episode, "Second Chances" inspired this song, as well as another (transporter accident, two Rikers, one still in love with Troi...). Andy Eigel say this is a "Stealth Trek" song. There had to be one.

*Male vocal:* Downtown Freddy Brown

*6-string guitar:* Judith

**Waltz for Organs & Guitar** © 1991. This is what happens when a neo-filker attends a seminar about organ retrieval and transplantation just before her first filk con, is encouraged by Brenda Sutton to write, and then does write her first full filk song. Isn't the piano a hoot?

*Piano:* Lloyd Landa

*Backup vocals:* George Brown, Gary Hayman, Anne Marshall and the DTFB gang.

**Long Lullaby** © 1994. Over several years I've been writing a sequence of songs based on a generation ship using cold sleep. This is one from the earliest days of the journey, when there may be agonising partings. The first time I sang it at a filk, people cried, which was a pretty fine compliment.

*Harmony vocals:* Mary Ellen Wessels.

*Classical guitar:* Judith

**The Healer's War** © 1994. One of my favourite authors, Elizabeth Ann Scarborough wrote the Nebula Award winning novel of this name. The book and its ideas about healing touched me deeply, both as a fellow nurse and

as a student of healing. She honoured me by strongly approving of the lyric.

*12-string guitar, 6 string guitar & doumbek:* Judith  
*Clarinet:* Jennifer Hayman

**Yuck** © 1995. It has food in it and it's for kids, inspired by my own kids. I love all these foods, especially th sushi! (Heather prefers her sushi cooked).

*Classical guitar:* Judith

*Backup vocals:* Heather Borean

**Farewell** © 1995. Distance is often hard on friendships, and will be more so when space is involved. Sometimes the parting is not anticipated and will last forever.

*A Capella*

**Sea of Stars** © 1992. Written for Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman in space, this song was a Pegasus nominee. Bondar's career is an inspiring one. As an astronaut, a physician and an environmentalist, she is a role model and a heroine of mine. Her words are paraphrased in the last verse.

*Classical guitar:* Judith

*Backup vocal:* Judith.

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For what I's worth, I play on this CD: El Degas C-100 Classical, Yamaha FG-420 6-string guitar, Yamaha FG-3201 I 12-string guitar, Limerick bodhran and a doumbek that looks like a really tasteless flower pot but was cheap and had a great sound. Fancy instruments don't make the musician better than she is – or isn't.