

Musical Story & Song Theatre

Presents

Heather Whaley Storyteller, vocals, guitar

Kim Michele Harpist, mandolin, vocals

Heather and Kim collaborate to create adaptations of 'Classic Tales' and also compose original works, which include both story and song.
All programs are designed for Stage, Corporate Events, Schools, Art Venues and Festivals

THE NUTCRACKER

ADAPTATION of author E.T.A. Hoffman's
The Nutcracker and the Mouse King 1815 (German)



Set in Frankfurt, Germany during a terrible snow storm, Clara & Fritz Silberhaus anxiously wait for the guests to arrive for a Christmas celebration. Among the guests is their beloved Godfather, Uncle Drosselmeyer, who brings wonder to every part of the festivities with his stories and enchanting hand-made gifts. This year he presents the children with a Nutcracker, standing stiffly at attention, but in the eyes of Clara, the Nutcracker comes to life and a drama in the toy room enfolds. And so does one of the most delightful love stories of all time.

Performed in costume, Heather and Kim bring *not the Nutcracker Ballet* version to stage, but a dramatic narrative of what was originally written as a dark, frightening story of a battle between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King. They retain the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky with compositions on harp and through vocalize. Suitable for older children, youth, and adults –

Available from November through January

Heather and Kim presented on stage, an excellent performance of the "Nutcracker". Heather's singing and their music on guitar and harp was delightfully entertaining. The comments ranged from "I never understood the Nutcracker story until this performance" to "I really enjoyed this wonderful presentation." Enid DeCoe Artistic Director, Christmas Under the Stars

THE NIGHTINGALE

ADAPTATION of Danish poet and author Hans Christian Anderson's
The Nightingale 1843

The Nightingale is a fairytale about an emperor of China who hears that the most beautiful thing in his own land is the song of the nightingale bird. He sends his courtiers to find the nightingale in the lofty forest and summon the bird to his court. When the emperor of Japan sends him a package with a mechanical singing nightingale covered with jewels, he loses interest in the real nightingale, which escapes back to her home in the forest. The mechanical bird breaks down. When the emperor is taken deathly ill he learns only the song of the real nightingale can restore him to health.

Performed in costume, Heather and Kim bring this wonderfully sensitive tale to a new level of understanding with Chinese and Japanese folk-songs transposed for harp, vocals and guitar and selected due to their entrancing lyrics, which blend with the story line. Suitable for older children, youth, and adults –

Available from February through September



"With its timeless and typically-Andersen themes of technology vs. nature and the politics of power and beauty, we found in Heather Whaley's version of 'The Nightingale' with Kim Michele something of striking relevance to both the professional and human sides of the delegates to our 2008 Session... and something of unique entertainment value." Christopher Dawes. Director Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music.

**To book MSST for your event please contact
Heather Whaley, 16 Rutledge St, Whitby, Ontario. L1P 1H2 905 668-2174
heather@heatherwhaley.ca**

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



Heather Whaley

Heather is a versatile singer/songwriter & storyteller, bringing both traditional tales and her own stories to life by interspersing the narrative with rhyme, chant and song.

With guitar in tow, she performs in schools, in concert, and conducts workshops throughout the GTA and beyond for children and adults. Her interactive Multicultural storytelling programs are popular with children and families, especially for Family Literacy Nights and Educational programs. Adult audiences delight in her unique presentations of original, contemporary, folk and blues music combined with personal tales that are profound or humorous. Her recordings include *A Bit of This & That and a Snap, Clap, Tap; Let's Sing,, and Origins of Halloween.*

She is the creator of “Musical Story & Song Theatre” with harpist Kim Michele, for older children and adults. www.heatherwhaley.ca

Photo Andris Piebalgs



Kim Michele

A musical troubadour Kim plays both the ancient Celtic Harp traced over one thousand years as well as the Lyon and Healy classical Harp. She performs period music ranging from Celtic to classical, early music to renaissance and traditional to contemporary, combining her talents on harp, and mandolin performance blending her instruments and voice with song.

She plays professionally at weddings and places such as Ontario Renaissance Festivals, Durham Regional Arts, Studio and Garden Tours, Toronto's Casa Loma, Royal Ontario Museum, Early Music Festival, Highland Games, and other cultural events.

Kim appears solo as well as duo with other performers in various productions within the Greater Toronto Area and Ontario. She is the creator of “Musical Story and Song Theatre” with singer/songwriter and storyteller Heather Whaley. www.songofthenightingale.com

Photo Andris Piebalgs

Other “Musical Story and Song” Concerts and Programs Available With Alternate Themes

Two popular performances...

SUMMER SEAS AND MEMORIES Heather and Kim share a heartfelt, musically infused medley of tales and songs reflecting on their roots and families. They will sweep you across and through rhythmic waves of tradition and contemporary life that will take you to your own special place of memory. ['Thank you Heather & Kim for creating a special program "Summer Seas and Memories" a perfect literary compliment to our festival. Your professionalism certainly came through!' Stella Ducker, Stellar Literary Festival](#)

LOVE VOICES IN THE WIND Love is kind. Love is cruel. Love is real. Heather and Kim will take your emotions to task with a musical, poetic journey through stories and songs that transcend visual imagery in the realm of fantasy and realism.

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