

Verlene Schermer Long Bio

Verlene Schermer is a San Francisco Bay Area based singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist with an eclectic style that ranges from Celtic, to blues and jazz.

The daughter of a piano teacher, Verlene began music lessons and had her first vocal performance at the age of 4 singing “M-O-T-H-E-R” at a mother-daughter luncheon accompanied by her mother on piano. By the time she was a teen, she was an accomplished pianist, violinist (playing solos in the district orchestra), guitarist, and singer performing original songs in local coffee-houses.

Since then, she has added many more stringed instruments including Celtic harp, mandolin, tenor banjo, ukulele, concertina, Swedish nyckelharpa, Swedish cittra, Norwegian hardingfele, harp-guitar, and treble viola da gamba.

After taking up the Celtic harp, she quickly entered the harp world doing workshops and concerts at national and international harp conferences. She placed third in the Lyon & Healy Jazz and Pop Harp Festival competition in 1997, and won a position on the “Best Stories Ever Told” for her story of an Irish harper, which included singing in Gaelic with harp accompaniment at SJSU in 1998. More recently, three of her songs were in the top 10 in the MasterPeace competition in 2014, and she was featured in the Heart Chakra Podcast with Jay Michaels in 2021 with interviews and music from her CDs. You can hear the podcast at: <https://tinyurl.com/VerleneSchermerInterview>.

She currently performs as a solo artist and also with her traditional jazz band, Parlez-vous Jazz, her duo, Silverwood, the 3-piece Celtic band Gaelic Muses, and The Verlene Schermer Band. In solo performance,

she accompanies her dynamic and versatile singing voice on Celtic harp, piano, and guitar.

Verlene's thought-provoking songs cover a wide range of themes from dreaming and visioning, to creative process, to poignant observations about modern living, and social issues. Her songs can be heard on her 6 solo recordings, *Comfortable Blues*, *Dreamtime*, *Rendezvous with the Moon*, *Persephone's Art*, *Peace*, and *Life Stages*. In addition to her busy schedule of private students and online workshops, Verlene is a sought-after performer and clinician for concerts and workshops throughout the country and in Europe.

In addition to her CDs of original songs, Verlene also has recorded 3 CDs of traditional music: *Wishing You Well* is a CD of music she plays on her double-strung harp at Stanford Hospital for patients, family, and staff; *A Dozen Dowland Songs and Ayres* is performed on harp with voice, and a book is also available for harpists who would like to play songs by John Dowland; *The Sing-Along Harper* includes 20 traditional American and Celtic folk songs with harp and voice. Another restful instrumental CD, *Hidden Pool*, includes harp, piano, guitar, and a number of other instruments.

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