

# TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC

*"One of the finest and truest purveyors of Irish traditional music in the Delaware Valley" says irishphiladelphia.com, with over 40 years performing experience*



<http://www.mcdermottshandy.com>

Mid-Atlantic Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann  
Hall of Fame in 2014  
Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame 2015

## Some of Their Performances

Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cumberland County Performing Arts Center; New Jersey Folk Festival, Cape May Music Festival, Bethlehem MusikFest; Irish Music & Dance Festival, Philadelphia; Glen Echo Park Irish Festival, MD; Raritan River Festival, Appel Farm, Circlewood Coffeehouse, Minstrel Show, The Troubadour ; Mom & Pop's Coffeehouse; Watchung Arts Center; Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia; Down Jersey Folklife Center, Millville; Mine Street Coffeehouse, Minstrel Show Coffeehouse; Penns Landing, Philadelphia; Collingswood Library, Oaklyn Library, East Brunswick Library, Millville Library, Monmouth County Library, Philadelphia Free Public Library, Tom's River First Night, Medford Eve New Year's, Historic Village of Allaire, Cold Spring Village, Wheaton Village, Millville; Bordentown Historical Society, Riverton Historical Society, Mauricetown Historical Society, Bucks County Irish-American Cultural Society, Burlington County College, Rutgers University, Lasalle University, Irish Chamber of Commerce USA, Philadelphia; Irish Famine Memorial Opening Gala, Philadelphia; Jeannie Johnston welcome, Philadelphia

## Recording Credits

**McDermott's Handy:** *Bound for Amerikay* (2013)

*Come Take the Byroads* (1985 & re-released 2007)

**Kathy DeAngelo:** *Harpers' Escape 10 Years of Tunes*  
*And Another Ten Years of Tunes*

**Dennis Gormley:** *Uncommon Bonds* (Mick Moloney & Eugene O'Donnell), *Travels with Broudy* (Saul Broudy), *With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm* (Caryl P. Weiss)

## McDermott's Handy

**Kathy DeAngelo** and **Dennis Gormley** are a superbly talented multi-instrumental duo who are as at ease playing the traditional Irish dance music as they are with singing songs and ballads in Irish or English. With a stage presence honed by more than 40 years of experience performing in a wide variety of venues and in front of audiences of all ages, this pair always brings a refreshingly energy to their concerts. They are seasoned professionals who really enjoy their music and have no trouble conveying that to their audience!

**Kathy DeAngelo** plays mainly Irish harp, fiddle, and banjo and adds the bodhran or mandolin on occasion. She has a commanding and expressive voice and sings in English as well as Irish. Although she started playing guitar and folk music as a teenager, it was her meeting Irish fiddler Ed McDermott in 1971 that sparked a lifelong passion for Irish traditional music. She started on the fiddle in 1977 and took up the harp in 1984. She has been actively engaged on the New Jersey folk music scene since the early '70s and is well known in the harp world as a performer and teacher and director of the Somerset Folk Harp Festival and the Harpers' Escape.

Husband **Dennis Gormley** had a long-standing performing career on the Philadelphia folk scene prior to meeting his wife and taking up Irish music in the late '70s. A talented multi-instrumentalist, he is the most tasteful guitarist and is an accomplished flute and tinwhistle player with a huge repertoire of tunes. He also is quite handy on the bouzouki and mandolin. Dennis does some fine singing in English and Irish

and is just as comfortable with an unaccompanied ballad as with the harp and guitar backing him up.



Call 856-795-7637  
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# BOUND FOR AMERIKAY



*The Irish Emigrant Experience:  
Coming to America as told through  
Music, Song & Story*

## McDermott's Handy

*"Their music took the facts about immigration and transferred them into the emotion and experience."*—Marie Ely, living history coordinator, Strawbridge School PTA

Photo: The Irish Memorial, Philadelphia as seen on their new CD

*What must it have been like? How did it feel to leave everyone and everything that is familiar to go off to a fabled land of freedom with streets paved with gold and untold wealth and opportunity? What was it like—that journey to America?*

**McDermott's Handy** has been collecting the music, stories and songs about "going to America" for more than 40 years and integrating this music into their concerts. Now they have assembled this broad repertoire into a distinctive musical program in order to tell the emigrants' story. This is the Irish viewpoint, to be sure, but in essence it is the story of *every* ethnic group who struggled in their homeland against political upheaval and repression, endured grinding poverty and racial or religious persecution to build a new life in America and something better for their children.

They were happy to leave. They were heartbroken to leave. They were mostly young. And it was not easy when they got here. They toiled and worked at the dangerous jobs or the ones that nobody wanted, all in the hope of building a future. Every immigrant then became part of the patchwork quilt of America—each contributing a distinct color and texture to the fabric of American culture. And now we're here to sing their stories.

**Target Audience:** the program can be tailored for schools (by age group), historical and heritage societies, libraries and concert settings

**Duration:** 30-60 minutes, depending on the audience and venue.

**Our new CD:** you can request a complimentary copy of our new CD "Bound for Amerikay" to hear songs in this program

### Their songs tell their stories

*Excerpts from some of the songs used in the program*

"When I landed in Philadelphia the girls all jumped for joy!"

"We were taken on board by a pleasant crew, bound for Amerikay. Fresh water then we did take on, 5000 gallons or more—in case we grew short, going to New York, far away from the Shamrock Shore."

"But to live poor I could not endure, like others of my station. For Amerikay, I sailed away and left this Irish nation."

"Your sons and your daughters are now going away and thousands are sailing to Amerikay."

"No longer digging praties (potatoes), I'll be digging lumps of gold."

"When I landed in Philadelphia the girls all jumped for joy!"

"In her little bag she carried all her past and history—and her dreams for the future in the land of liberty."



# THE HARP & SHAMROCK



## *The Harp in Irish History* **Kathy DeAngelo**

Ireland is the only country in the world with a musical instrument, the harp, as its national emblem. From the time the Celts arrived in Ireland in 5<sup>th</sup> century BC with their harp-like instruments, music has inextricably been linked with their history: warriors and scholars, pagans and poets, conquerors and conquered.

This program takes a musical journey through Irish history with a wide variety of harp repertoire, folk songs, and Irish music styles that tell the story of the Irish. Significant historic events have always been captured in folk songs. The early harpers had an exalted and honored status in Irish society and they and their music are known in tales and legends. The later conquest of Ireland and the misfortunes of its harpers are reflected in the music of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Then the Great Famine and '98 Rebellion saw the harp's near extinction and its elevation in the patriots' psyche and nationalists' and emigrants' fervor to "unchain the harp".

### **A Sampling of the Material**

The otherworldly powers of music: the early Celtic sagas and harpers and the meaning of geantraí, goltraí and suantraí.

14<sup>th</sup> century: Musical consequences of the Norman Conquest

1200-1600: The Bardic Tradition & the Gaelic Order

17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century: the music of Carolan and the last harpers of the period; influence of baroque music in Ireland and the decline of the old Irish order and music of the '98 Rebellion.

19<sup>th</sup> century: The Great Famine and Emigration reflected in music, song and story. The Harp & the Shamrock of the nationalist movement.

20<sup>th</sup> century to present: the Irish music revival and resurgence of the harp in traditional music.

### **About the Presenter**

**Kathy DeAngelo** has been playing the Irish harp since 1984 and traditional Irish music since 1971. She is half of the music duo McDermott's Handy, which has been performing together since 1978.



Kathy is a well-respected teacher of Irish music on the harp and fiddle. She is director of the Somerset Folk Harp Festival, one of the largest harp events in the country, as well the nationally-recognized harp retreat called The Harpers' Escape. She teaches and performs at other harp conferences as well. She runs You Gotta Have Harp Productions, which represents and promotes harp-playing artists.

Kathy has 2 CDs and has published 2 music books of traditional music arranged for harp. The NJ Council of the Arts awarded her a Folk Arts apprenticeship grant for study on 18<sup>th</sup> century Irish harp repertoire with noted Irish harper Gráinne Hambly.



# AN IRISH CHRISTMAS



**McDermott's Handy**, one of the premier traditional Irish music bands in New Jersey, has been building and performing their Christmas music program for more than three decades. These once-a-year concerts book quickly since there are limited weekends in December!

## *Christmas Comes But Once a Year!*

### Sampling of the Program Repertoire

The Holly & the Berry  
Oíche Nollaig  
The Wren Boys Song  
Christmas Comes But  
Once a Year  
Christmas Eve Reel  
Dark December  
Drive the Cold Winter  
Away  
The Wexford Carol  
The Christmas Letter  
Auld Lang Syne

#### Target Audiences:

Libraries  
Cultural & Historical  
Societies  
Performing Arts Centers  
Coffeeshouses



### A perfect holiday concert program for your venue

**Kathy DeAngelo** and **Dennis Gormley** have been performing traditional Irish music together as McDermott's Handy since 1978. Their Christmas music program is a natural extension of their passion for the wonderful varieties of Irish traditional music and their talent for synthesizing the rich cultural lore of the season into a rollicking holiday house party, right in front of the audience. This is not the music you're likely to hear at the mall!

The Holidays are all about traditions and so much of our customs here came from "the old country" and many of the symbols go back to ancient times. Hear these stories woven into the fabric of lively music and songs. Some will make you laugh and others will bring a tear to your eye. This concert is a blend of lively dance tunes, songs with the kind of choruses to make you sing along, and poignant stories about some of the customs that are now part of the seasonal tradition. You'll hear the harp, fiddle, flute, tinwhistle, guitar, bouzouki and bodhran..

Kathy and Dennis wrote the scripts and performed for the popular Joys of Christmas Past program at the Historic Village of Allaire for many years. They have also performed this concert at: The Watchung Arts Center, Gloucester Township Library, Mom & Pop's Coffeeshouse, Wheaton Village, Monmouth County Library, and for the Delaware Valley chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and the Colts Neck Historical Society.

### **Call Now to Book For December**

Please Contact You Gotta Have Harp Productions at 856-795-7637  
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