



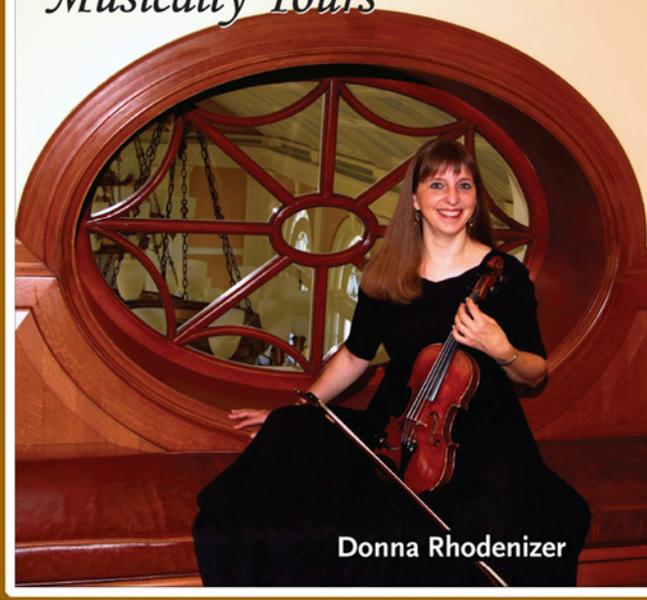
Life Happens...

CD release concert



Featuring
Donna Rhodenizer
violin, accordion, piano

Musically Yours



Donna Rhodenizer

Special guests



Andy Duinker
Ariana Nasr
Jenna Richards
Debbie Zwicker
James Logan
Ben Taylor

guitar, vocals
soprano sax, violin
violin, piano
piano, vocals
guitar
bass guitar

Al Whittle Theatre, Wolfville, NS



Sunday
June 26
3 p.m.

Tickets: \$15
Box of Delights, Wolfville
R.D. Chisholm, Kentville
Call 681-5446 or 538-7015

www.donnarhodenizer.com

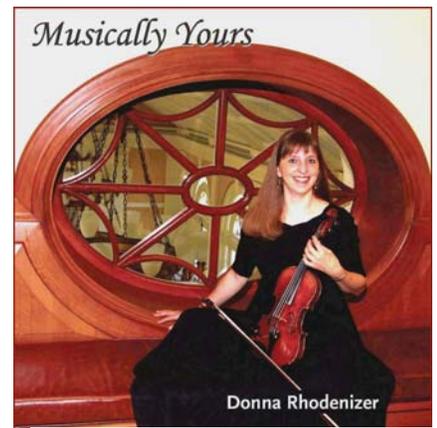


Musically Yours - CD Release Concert

(for immediate release)

Donna Rhodenizer will be presenting a CD release concert of her new instrumental CD, *Musically Yours* on Sunday, June 26 at 3 p.m. at the Acadia Cinema's Al Whittle Theatre in Wolfville, NS. This CD release has been dubbed the "**Life Happens**" CD Release Concert due to life events interfering with the official launch of this CD in the past year. The CD is aging like a fine wine and is finally ready to be savoured by musical connoisseurs everywhere.

"Musically Yours" features Donna as both composer and performer. Drawing on her experience as a classical violinist and her traditional folk roots, she has created a delightfully eclectic mix of gentle waltzes, toe tapping fiddle tunes and hauntingly beautiful melodies. She is a composer who knows her craft and is able to deliver songs that provide great enjoyment for her listeners.



www.donnarhodenizer.com

Those attending the concert will be treated to songs from the CD, stories behind the songs, and a few vocal selections. Donna, playing violin/ fiddle and accordion, will be joined by instrumentalists Ariana Nasr, Jenna Richards, Debbie Zwicker, James Logan and Ben Taylor and special guest, singing partner, Andy Duinker.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Box of Delights in Wolfville, R.D. Chisholms in Kentville, by calling 681-5446 or 538-7015, or at the door.

Musically yours – Life happens...

After a musician has composed the tunes, worked out the arrangements, hired musicians, spent the appropriate amount of time in the recording studio and has the manufactured CDs in hand, one might think that having a party to celebrate the completion of the project would be the easy part. That's not quite how it worked out for Donna Rhodenizer's CD project "Musically Yours".

Donna is no stranger to the recording process. As part of the children's duo, Donna & Andy, she and singing partner Andy Duinker have recorded and released many CDs over the past 15 years. This CD was a departure from their children's recordings, reflecting the duo's activities as adult, folk / contemporary performers. "Musically Yours" is a full-length adult, instrumental CD featuring Donna as composer, arranger and performer.

Donna reflects on the events of the past year...

The CDs arrived on July 28, 2010. Boxes and boxes of a plastic-wrapped musical journey, a labour of love, ready to present to the world. "Let's have a CD release concert and make some music," we said.

This was easier said than done. A continuous series of events caused CD release concert plans to be put on the back burner over and over again. A potentially fatal diving accident (Donna's son), fall tours taking the Donna & Andy show to Newfoundland (in the aftermath of a hurricane), New Brunswick and Ontario, school Christmas concerts (Donna is an elementary school music teacher), the snowiest winter in recent memory canceling many scheduled events, spring tours for Donna & Andy in New Brunswick, Ontario and Newfoundland, a University Basketball Championship (Andy's daughters play for Acadia University) and life in general, filled up the calendar with no room for the release concert and the party that a new CD deserves.

Finally, June 26th was picked and marked on the calendar. One month short of a full year from the first arrival of those boxes of plastic-wrapped hopes and dreams. How could it be that so much time could go by? "Life happens", we know. Some of it happy, some of it sad, some of it causing fear, some of it bringing joy – all of it part of being alive and being part of the human race. Human "race" indeed. We are hoping to reach our scheduled finish line and get this CD launched. But we all know the finish line is really just the starting line and we will be off for another whirlwind series of events. Life happens! I say bring it on – but let's officially make some music before we are on our way again.

Donna Rhodenizer

Composer, educator, performer, recording artist

Donna Rhodenizer is a composer, music educator, performer and recording artist. Her creative output includes over 30 instrumental compositions for violin/fiddle, accordion, piano, and handbells, two dozen choral octavos for adult choirs as well as 50 songs in four songbook collections for elementary students. Her song collections are used in schools across Canada, the US, Trinidad and Tobago, and Australia, and her choral works have been performed by children in England, Ireland, Sierra Leone, Austria, Spain and other countries.



Donna's choral compositions have made an impact on the musical landscape, including "The Love of the Sea", which has been performed for audiences across Canada and also in Europe. It was included in the CBC Radio "Essential Maritime Playlist" for 2011 and was one of the songs featured on *The Vinyl Café* in January 2009. Several of her songs have been performed as part of the Unisong July 1st Concerts held annually in Ottawa, including "Someone Like Me" which was one of the massed choir numbers presented at Unisong 2009. Her song "We are the Children of the World" is being used in support of *Free the Children*, an organization dedicated to building schools for children in underdeveloped countries around the world.

It is now time for Donna's instrumental compositions to take their place in the spotlight. Donna has shown herself to be a consummate creator of beautiful, lyrical melodies and rich harmonies. Her fans have long enjoyed these characteristics in both her choral and her instrumental compositions. The recent release of *Musically Yours* finally gives fans the opportunity to own a collection of Donna's instrumental work, something for which they have been waiting for a long time. The CD offers gentle toe-tapping folk waltzes, fiddle tunes, stately songs with classical overtones, with some solo piano work added for good measure. Donna's ability to switch with ease from violin/fiddle to piano to accordion allows her to showcase her talents in a variety of mediums and styles. Although *Musically Yours* is Donna's first solo instrumental recording, it is the eleventh recording project of her career.

[Donna is the primary song writer for the professional singing duo, Donna & Andy, in which she performs. Donna & Andy received a **Juno nomination** for "Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me" a CD which included twelve of Donna's original songs for children. Other CDs of her original songs have garnered an ECMA award and multiple nominations as well as awards and nominations from Music Nova Scotia]

Donna wrote fifteen of the sixteen tracks on the CD. The only "cover tune" is Jay Ungar's *Ashokan Farewell*, arranged by Donna for solo violin and piano. Donna made musical magic as she created all the arrangements on this recording. She complimented her violin/fiddle and accordion-based tunes with some of Nova Scotia's finest musicians: Chris Mitchell on soprano sax and flute; local brass players and members of the Stadacona band; classical guitar professor Eugene Cormier; well-known bass virtuoso Jamie Gatti; multi-instrumentalist Greg Simm; and consummate classical musicians, The Blue Engine String Quartet.

Donna plays the violin with the soul of a fiddler and the finesse of a classical violinist. Her melodies are memorable and beautiful. Her arrangements create musical moments that listeners will want to hear over and over again. Soprano saxophone added to accordion melodies creates a reedy aura of ancient castle ruins. Doubling violin with the soprano sax creates a depth of timbre that lifts melodies to beyond lovely. String Quartet, brass players and a classical guitar are used to deliver two of the CDs most moving classical moments.