

Talisman

INTRODUCTION

For well over a decade, Talisman's music has captivated audiences at festivals, fairs, concert halls, pubs, weddings, farmers' markets, rallies, and fundraisers. The band's hammered dulcimer, fiddle, flutes & whistle, guitar, and voices – delivering their percolating blend of Celtic, New England, Appalachian, and original tunes and songs – stir the feet and give the brain's pleasure receptors a friendly nudge.

Known for its “imaginative arrangements” (*Victory Review*), the band draws on 300 years of dance music and songs from the Celtic and American folk traditions, at times seamlessly weaving old tunes into modern songs. Talisman can be soothing, even hypnotic, but they most often turn listeners into dancers with expertly tackled jigs, polkas, and reels.

Talisman has two recordings available -- *Phoenix* (1996) and *Just Up the Hill* (2004) -- which may be purchased from the Talisman Music web store or through CDBaby.com. “[*Just Up the Hill*] is a long-awaited release from the band...they are still going strong. The musicianship on this album [is] superb.”
– *Green Man Review*

With members currently spanning a 125-mile reach of the Pacific Northwest, Talisman can perform as a duo, trio, or quartet, depending on individual availability. In any configuration, Talisman will bring smiles and tapping feet to all who listen.

PERSONNEL

Carl Thor (hammered dulcimer, piano, vocals, percussion) also plays in Cascade Crossing, Hands4, the Portland Megaband, and various informal dance music ensembles. He has accompanied the Aurora Chorus and other groups in performance of music for choir and hammered dulcimer, and performs occasionally as a soloist. He has studied music at Clark College and Portland Community College (PCC), teaches hammered dulcimer at Artichoke Community Music, and electronic music and piano at PCC. Carl's compositions have been aired by several groups beyond his own, including the Portland Megaband, Joyride, Beccon, and the PCC Jazz Band.

Lori Prime (fiddle, vocals) joined Talisman in 2008, after moving back to Portland from Redmond, Oregon. She has built some impressive fiddle chops through her playing with Cascade Crossing and the Portland Megaband, and she is probably the member of this band who practices the most diligently. Between music, dancing, kayaking, hiking, cycling, and family activities, she somehow manages to find time to hold down a job as a post-op ICU nurse.

Rich Goss (guitar, mandolin, vocals, percussion) performed in several Austin, Texas bands prior to moving to Portland. He currently plays in Cascade Crossing, Hands4, and The Portland Megaband. Rich also enjoys calling contra dances and has called from Vancouver, BC, to San Diego to Texas. He serves the Portland Country Dance Community as a member of the contra committee and the Northwest Passage Dance Camp committee. To propel all these activities Rich works as a software quality analyst. In between, he still finds time to walk his dog, Otto.

Sara Martin (flutes, tin whistle, vocals, percussion) is a life-long singer, and has performed with the Lawrence Civic Choir, Home Harmonies, the Lawrence Arts Center Chorale, the Motet Singers and the University of Kansas Choirs. By day, she is director of academic advising at the Evergreen State College. She is the mother of two very musically inclined young adults. Sara is a quilter, a poet, a gardener, and a spiritual light to her friends and her family.

Celtic & folk music featuring Hammered Dulcimer, Flutes, Fiddle, Guitar & Vocals

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