

# Heather Alexander

Original and Traditional Celtic Music

"Lilt and lyric weave a cloth  
as soft as a velvet gown  
That wraps you as a flame to moth  
while you slowly settle down"

Heather Alexander  
"Enchantment"

From out the mists of ancient Celtic forests comes this talented musician to entertain you with songs of lore and legend, soulful airs and spritely dance tunes of that twilight time betwixt the ages. With a repertoire filled to overflowing with original and traditional music of the British Isles, you will be entranced as her songs and stories ease your hardships and affirm your hopes.

Like the bards of old, Heather Alexander weaves a rich tapestry of tuneful tales and magical music, enchanting the listener into a world where anything can happen! Her fiery fiddle will have you bouncing to the beat of a rowdy reel or brimming with the tears of an Irish aire.

Whether performing at pubs or private parties, Heather Alexander captures a timeless Celtic spirit; like the tales of a travelling tinker or a walk in the misty, foggy dew.



PHOTO BY PHILIP R. OBERMARCK



Sea Fire Productions

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# Heather Alexander

Singer/Songwriter and Celtic Fiddler

## Biographical Information

Born in the San Francisco Bay Area, Heather Alexander was raised with the customs of the Isles firmly bred into her by her mother and grandmother, both natives of Britain. Her father, a full blooded Missourian and a prominent jazz vocalist/guitarist of the forties began Heather's formal education at the age of six when he started teaching her music. By age nine, she was teaching herself to play the violin. She later began composing songs on guitar, and honed her skills with several years of private study in music, voice and drama. Heather has performed in a broad spectrum of contexts — from opera to country music.

In 1985, she found her niche in Celtic music by playing fiddle for the Irish and Scottish dancers at California's largest **Renaissance Pleasure Faire**. Since that time, her original music has been heavily influenced by the traditions of her roots. In the late 80's, Heather began to experiment with blending her original compositions, electric instruments and traditional Celtic music, which led to the formation of **Phoenix**, her *Celtic Fusion* band. Together, they performed original and traditional music with a solid rock and roll sound, eventually producing one album, **Keepers of the Flame**, which was released on Heather's own label, **Sea Fire Productions** early in 1990. Both the album and the band achieved a high degree of local popularity, and fame. In 1991, when Phoenix disbanded, Heather returned to her acoustic roots and embarked on a solo career. For over ten years, Heather has been performing solo at pubs, coffee houses and festivals from L.A. to Seattle, and across the nation. With guitar, fiddle and bodhran, she presents original and traditional Celtic music that is received with enthusiasm by audiences of all ages. She has worked with and opened for many notables, including Tempest, Tommy Makem, the Clancy Brothers, Tom May, Darby O'Gill and the Wicked Tinkers.

She has performed on several albums, either as an instrumentalist, vocalist, composer or arranger. In 1994, Heather produced her first solo CD, **Wanderlust**, a collection of original music based on traditional Celtic themes, described by **Dirty Linen Magazine** as *"...tunes and stories that rarely fail to delight, especially with that incredible voice and wild fiddle playing...rivals many Celtic artists for capturing the legendary nature of the Emerald Isle."* Released on her independent label, **Sea Fire Productions**, **Wanderlust** has been well received across the U.S. as well as internationally. Heather has release four subsequent albums, and each one has been equally successful. In 2001, she debuted her band, **Uffington Horse**, a synthesis of Celtic Folk and World Rock. With bass and percussion backing her up, she can present an eclectic folk rock sound that keeps the audience dancing!

Heather's latest album was released in February of 2002 and is being hailed as her best work yet. **Insh'Allah: The Music of "Lion's Blood"**, is a collaborative production with fantasy author **Steven Barnes**, inspired by his latest novel **"Lion's Blood"**. This album, a departure of sorts, presents the listener with a world where Africa colonized America, using Irish slaves. The music has an unique Afro-Irish feel, with rich vocal textures and strong rhythms. She is currently working on a live album of more traditional Celtic songs, for release in 2003.

A benefit to the wide range of establishments that Heather performs at is her ability to adapt her presentation to fit the needs of the house, from solo performer to full band, and still maintain a quality of excellence and high professionalism.



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# Heather Alexander

## Partial List of Venues

THE BUZZSAW .....	Albany	OR
RAINY DAY CAFE .....	Eugene	OR
GLASTONBURY FAIRE .....	Newport	OR
ALBERTA STREET PUBLIC HOUSE .....	Portland	OR
CLINTON STREET THEATRE .....	Portland	OR
COUNTY CORK PUB .....	Portland	OR
MELODY BALLROOM .....	Portland	OR
PORTLAND SATURDAY MARKET .....	Portland	OR
WINTERFOLK AT THE ALADDIN THEATRE .....	Portland	OR
DUBLIN PUB .....	Raleigh Hills	OR
DAYS OF OLDE .....	Salem	OR
DOUGLAS COUNTY CELTIC HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Winston	OR
LARK AT THE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL .....	Ashford	WA
MUCKLESHOOT CASINO .....	Auburn	WA
SEATTLE HIGHLAND GAMES & GATHERING .....	Enumclaw	WA
TACOMA HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Graham	WA
WASHINGTON RENAISSANCE AND FANTASY FAIRE .....	Gig Harbor	WA
KELSO HIGHLANDER FESTIVAL .....	Kelso	WA
KELSO THEATRE PUB .....	Kelso	WA
THREE RIVERS FOLK SOCIETY CONCERT SERIES .....	Kennewick	WA
MEEKER DAYS FESTIVAL .....	Puyallup	WA
TUMBLEWEED MUSIC FESTIVAL .....	Richland	WA
CONOR BURNE'S PUBLIC HOUSE .....	Seattle	WA
FIDDLER'S INN .....	Seattle	WA
NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL .....	Seattle	WA
NORTHWEST SEAPORT CONCERT SERIES .....	Seattle	WA
TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL .....	Seattle	WA
MUD PIT CONCERT SERIES .....	Spokane	WA
NORTHWEST RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL .....	Spokane	WA
SHAKABRAH JAVA .....	Tacoma	WA
CAFÉ PACIFIC .....	Vancouver	WA
STARRY PLOUGH .....	Berkeley	CA
EASTERN SIERRA CELTIC FESTIVAL .....	Mammoth Lakes	CA
MONTEREY HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Monterey	CA
DUNSMUIR HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Oakland	CA
TILDEN PARK CONCERT SERIES .....	Oakland	CA
PALO ALTO CULTURAL CENTER .....	Palo Alto	CA
ST. MICHAEL'S ALLEY .....	Palo Alto	CA
PLEASANTON HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Pleasanton	CA
PEDDLER'S FAIRE .....	Redding	CA
DRAGON MARSH .....	Riverside	CA
RIVERSIDE STREET FAIRE .....	Riverside	CA
FOX & GOOSE .....	Sacramento	CA
EDINBURGH CASTLE .....	San Francisco	CA
THE BAL THEATRE .....	San Leandro	CA
CITY LIGHTS .....	Santa Clara	CA
BORDER'S BOOKS AND MUSIC .....	Santa Monica	CA
SANTA ROSA HIGHLAND GAMES .....	Santa Rosa	CA
SEBASTAPOL CELTIC FESTIVAL .....	Sebastapol	CA
VALHALLA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL .....	South Lake Tahoe	CA
MUDSHARK BREWING COMPANY .....	Lake Havasu City	AZ
IOWA CAFE .....	Las Vegas	NV



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## Discography

Year	Album Title	Artist	Publisher
2002	Insh'Allah: <i>The Music of Lion's Blood</i>	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
2001	A Gypsy's Home	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
1997	Midsummer (re-recorded & expanded)	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
1996	Life's Flame	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
1994	Wanderlust	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
1993	Heather Alexander, Live	Alexander	Firebird
1991	Midsummer (cassette only)	Alexander	Sea Fire Productions
1990	Keepers of the Flame	Phoenix	Phoenix/Sea Fire

### Featured On:

2000	Roundworm	Kanefsky/Various	Prometheus Records
2000	Where the Magic is Real	Various Artists, Live	FilkOntario
1999	Gaia Circles	Gaia Consort	Suddenly Naked Arts
1998	Wax Irish	Shanachie World Folksingers	Shanachie World Folksingers
1994	Now	Four Shillings Short	Four Shillings Short
1994	Crosstown Bus	Various Artists, Live	Dandelion Digital
1994	Shadow Stalker	Alexander	Firebird
1993	Following Wind	Morgan	Fishbite Recordings
1993	Rainshadow	Thayer	Watershed Productions
1993	Songsmith	Alexander	Firebird
1991	Oathbreakers	Various Artists	Firebird
1990	Backlight	Various Artists, Live	Firebird
1990	Border Patrol	Various Artists	Firebird
1990	Encore	Various Artists, Live	Firebird
1990	Fever Season	Various Artists	Firebird
1990	Footlight	Various Artists, Live	Firebird
1990	Freedom Flight & Fantasy	Alexander	Firebird
1990	Keltia	Various Artists	Dirty Linen
1990	Limelight	Various Artists, Live	Firebird
1990	Oathbound	Various Artists	Firebird
1990	UnReal Estate	Various Artists	Firebird
1989	Carmen Miranda's Ghost	Various Artists	Firebird
1989	Firestorm	Fish	Firebird
1989	Magic, Moondust & Melancholy	Various Artists	Firebird
1989	Tapeworm	Various Artists	Firebird
1987	Southwind	Morgan	Fishbite Recordings
1987	The Black Unicorn	Various Artists, Live	DAG Productions
1987	Where No Man...	Various Artists	Off Centaur Pub.
1986	Stage Struck	Various Artists, Live	Off Centaur Pub.



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## Solo Album Track Listings:

### INSH'ALLAH: THE MUSIC OF LION'S BLOOD

SFP-0207

1/Fire on the Sea, 2/Laddie Are Ya Working?, 3/We Are Bound, 4/The Enneagram, 5/Green are the Hills, 6/Path to Alexandria-Mushtaq's Jig-Sleepy Camel, 7/Deidre's Lament, 8/Fresh Hops and Hemp, 9/Wild Seeds, 10/The Mushroom Song, 11/Gruagach!, 12/Insh'Allah, 13/Battle for Mosque Al'Amu, 14/New Northwest, 15/Road to Lisdoonvarna-Morrison's Jig-Drowsy Maggie, 16/Destiny

### A GYPSY'S HOME

SFP-0106

1/Gypsy Bardic Tinker People, 2/Laydies Bryng Your Flowers Faire, 3/Come by the Hills, 4/Wooden Toy Sword, 5/Gypsy's Fire, 6/Wandering Willie-The Wily Old Bachelor-Within a Mile of Clonbur, 7/Heather on the Moor, 8/The Hexhamshire Lass, 9/The Whistling Gypsy Rover, 10/Come with Me, Sir, 11/Star of May Morning, 12/Chickies in the House-Napoleon's Rant-Duncan's Dance, 13/The Witch of the Westmereland, 14/A Gypsy's Home

### MIDSUMMER

SFP-9705

1/The Hunt is On, 2/Wolfen One, 3/Only the Music, 4/Smoke filled Pictures, 5/Brannigan's Special Ale, 6/Dance in the Circle, 7/Horsdanz-Macy's Jig-Heather's Hound, 8/Midsummer, 9/Shattered Glass, 10/Tomorrow I Leave for Battle, 11/March of Cambreadth, 12/Courage Knows No Bounds, 13/Flesh Against the Thorn, 14/Close Your Eyes

### LIFE'S FLAME

SFP-9604

1/Introduction to..., 2/Eggs & Crumbs, 3/Cat & the Fiddle, 4/Introduction to..., 5/BlackJack's Lady, 6/Something Dark, 7/Voices of the Sea, 8/Samhain, 9/Defender of the Child, 10/Ragged Man, 11/Stormbringer-Kiss Me Jack Frost, 12/Life's Flame, 13/Hap'n' Frog, 14/Old Man from the Barrow, 15/Blood Brothers, 16/Creature of the Wood, 17/The Garden, 18/Lifetime of Song

### WANDERLUST

SFP-9403

1/Harvest Season, 2/Stable Boy, 3/Stolen Child, 4/John Barleycorn, 5/Pour Your Brother, 6/Faerie Queen, 7/Storyteller, 8/An Sceál, 9/ContrariDance, 10/Neverland, 11/Wanderlust, 12/Raise A Glass



# Heather Alexander

"...tunes and stories that rarely fail to delight, especially with that incredible voice and wild fiddle playing...rivals many Celtic artists for capturing the legendary nature of the Emerald Isle. Alexander is equally adept at guitar, fiddle, mandolin and various percussion."

*Dirty Linen Magazine*

"High marks for authenticity and fire. Could be mistaken for a Silly Sister!"

*Folk Roots Magazine*

"Celtic with an edge . . . One of the nicest singing voices on the American Celtic scene."

*Mike Fleischer, Treasures from the Isles*

"... considerable reputation as a solo artist ... strong gutsy vocals while her fiddle, mandolin and bodhran ably support her guitar work... bountiful energy and enthusiasm."

*Rock and Reel Magazine*

"While her ability to play the instruments is extremely impressive, it is this captivating red-head's voice that dominates the music...[as she] lyrically explores the Celtic and European folklore and mythologies from which [she] takes much of her musical inspiration."

*Rambles, a Cultural Arts Review*

"...unashamedly Celtic, unabashedly energetic, unstoppably powerful. Her music is apt to bowl the listener over if they're not prepared. Her voice ranges from sultry to slamming, from seductive to stunning, hypnotic and sizzling all in one. Trying to capture the range of her voice is like bottling the wind. It's haunting, the kind of voice that sticks with you."

*Greenman Review*



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## Folk, Electric Folk, Traditional and World Music

#56 ~ Feb/Mar '95 ~ U.S. \$3.95 ~ Canada \$5.50 ~ Moosylvania 6.5 new rutabagas



Wild wandering fiddle

photo: Blue Dragon Photography



**Heather Alexander *Wanderlust*** [Sea Fire Productions SFP-9403-2 (1994)] Those yearning for a hint of the sounds of Phoenix, the now defunct Bay Area band Alexander led, are sure to be delighted with her latest release. Not as much a rockin' album, *Wanderlust* focuses on wandering minstrel-type tunes and stories rendered acoustically that rarely fail to delight, especially with that incredible voice and wild fiddle playing in the forefront. Though there are few traditional tunes here, most of the material (written by Alexander) is Celtic in style and rivals many Celtic artists for capturing the legendary nature of the Emerald Isle. Rob Wullenjohn (Tempest) plays bass on most of the cuts and Lief Sørbye (also Tempest) appears occasionally for a flute interlude. Alexander is equally adept at guitar, fiddle mandolin and various percussion. An exceptional album. [CD \$16+\$1.50 s/h; Cassette \$10+\$1.50 s/h] (JM)

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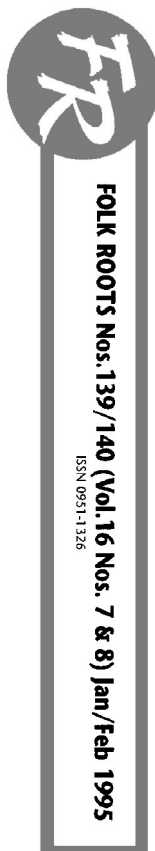
### HEATHER ALEXANDER - WANDERLUST

(SEA FIRE PRODUCTIONS SFP 9403-2)

San Franciscan Heather Alexander ex Phoenix vocalist has created a considerable reputation as a solo artist since Phoenix's demise. "Wanderlust" is her latest solo effort. With members of Tempest along, it's West Coast-Folk/Rock par excellence. "Harvest Season" shows her strong gutsy vocals while her fiddle, mandolin and bodhran ably support her guitar work. More acoustic in style than the Phoenix electric days, "John Barleycorn", "Stable Boy" and "Faerie Queen" the latter a 7 minute epic all possess a bountiful energy and enthusiasm. "Wanderlust" shows how much Heather Alexander has developed in the last 5 years.

(Sea Fire Productions PO Box 875 Moss Beach California CA 94038 USA)

John O'Regan



## THE GOOD, THE BAD + THE UGLY Another dose of the AND THE REST! Section

The albums - good and bad - which didn't get the full-length treatment, contributed by a selection of our various reviewers cowering under the cloak of collective anonymity. It's traditional, dammit!

**Heather Alexander *Wanderlust*** (Seafire CD SFP 94032) San Francisco artist turns in a nifty brand of Celtic/trad. Brit folk. High marks for authenticity and fire. Could be mistaken for a Silly Sister! Seafire Productions, P.O. Box 875, Moss Beach, CA 94038, U.S.A.



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