



CATHY DEWITT

UNITY MUSIC DIRECTOR

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Cathy DeWitt has been a Unity Music Director since the 1980's, under Rev. Sharon Connor at Unity of Gainesville, Rev. Bill Dodd in Ocala, and now back at Unity of Gainesville with Rev. Marciah McCartney. She has been performing and touring at Unity churches for almost twenty years, and has played at New Thought churches in California, Arizona, and Florida, as well as Unity Village. She has four songs published in Unity Association's compilation song books. Her original melody for James Dillet Freeman's "Prayer for Protection" is used at Unity churches around the country, especially in Florida. Well-versed in jazz and folk as well as New Thought music, Cathy is a singer/songwriter, pianist, guitarist, harpist, and bowed psaltery player, who began singing in church choirs as a child.

As a Unity Music Leader she helps organize regional retreats and performances, sharing the stage and her music with Bernie Siegel, Alan Cohen, Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra, and others.

She is internationally known within the Arts in Healthcare field as a performer, a speaker and presenter of workshops on Music & Healing and Creating Successful Arts in Healthcare Programs.

In 2002 she was asked to participate in the Healing Arts Seminar at Unity Village, where she also sang and played at an evening concert. She has lead participatory workshops and spiritual music at several Unity retreats.



For the past few years Cathy has attended the Unity Music Directors conference, Sound Connections, at Unity Village, where she had many opportunities to attend and participate in workshops, forums and concerts with other New Thought musicians. In addition to inspiring her and infusing her performances with new passion, these experiences also helped her to hone her creative skills and to make connections with other touring Unity musicians from all over the world. She has brought many of these musicians to play at churches in North Florida, at the hospital for Arts in Medicine, on her radio show, and in other concerts.



As a touring musician and as a representative of Arts in Medicine, Cathy presents workshops and seminars worldwide, including: *Rhythms of the Universe*, *Music as a Healing Tool*, *Aural Environmental Enhancement*, and *Reconnecting With Your Inner Musician*.

Cathy at Unity Village

An eclectic professional musician since the 1970's, Cathy DeWitt has shared the stage and the airwaves with Tom Paxton, Pete Seeger, Garrison Keillor, Florida folk legend Will McLean, and jazz pianists Dave Frischberg and Rob Barga. A jazz vocalist and pianist, bluegrass guitar picker and folksinger/songwriter, she serves on the Boards of the Gainesville Friends of Jazz and the Friends of Florida Folk. She is a nationally published writer and concert producer, and hosts a weekly folk music program, "Across the Prairie", on the NPR affiliate station WUFT. In 1995 she found an unexpected setting for her musical versatility: Shands Arts in Medicine program in Gainesville, Florida, where she spent the last eleven years creating a pioneering, world-renowned Music in Medicine program. From piano playing in the hospital lobby to elevator singalongs, from hallway concerts to bedside harp in the ICUs, Cathy uses music to transform the hospital environment and the patient experience.

She has presented workshops and seminars for many universities, arts agencies, and hospitals, including conferences for the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and spiritual gatherings and retreats for Unity. Her consultant clients include Vanderbilt University, San Diego Hospice, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital and the Royal Hospital in London. Along with several individual songwriting awards, including two from the 2006 Unisong International Songwriting Contest, she is the winner of a Fetzer Grant for her Healing Music Programs, a Florida Arts Council Individual Artist Enhancement Grant, and the National League of Penwomen Branch Award for Music.