



LEE HUNTER • MUSIC

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Lee Hunter is a singer, songwriter, rhythm guitarist, percussionist and pianist with a passion for folklore. From 1992-2014, she worked with guitarist Arvid Smith in the critically acclaimed duo, Tammerlin. Together they placed their own stamp on folk/roots music. What you heard was exceptional guitar work accompanying clever original songs and traditional tunes pulled from the roots of American music.

In pursuing her own musical path, Lee is building on the sonic history of Tammerlin while exploring new directions and partnering with a number of talented musicians. In 2014 she created a chamber work of music and spoken word for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in Jacksonville, FL. Working with Charlotte Mabrey, percussionist and Associate Professor of Music at the University of North Florida and Philip Pan, concert master for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the end result was a CD recording of the project. Lee's focus remains on performing and writing songs. She and Walter Parks, longtime guitarist for Richie Havens and a fine songwriter and solo performer, were asked to open a series of shows for Emmylou Harris in 2015. They have since performed at several music festivals together and plan to continue to collaborate from time to time. She is also working with outstanding guitarist and award-winning songwriter, Joey Kerr. Joey brings impressive musicianship and an extensive knowledge of American music to the duo's sound. They have played at a number of festivals and concert venues. In addition, Lee and Joey offer an educational program for students of all ages and two special concerts of music and spoken word—a holiday program, “Wintersong-A Celebration of the Winter Season” and a concert of “Civil War & Seafaring Songs”. From time to time, you may also see Lee and Joey performing with her 6-piece band, Lee Hunter and the Gatherers.

Lee's love of music of all kinds began early. She grew up in the Maryland suburbs just outside Washington, DC. She began piano lessons at age six and studied classical piano for about ten years. She got her first guitar at age ten and named it “Pete” for Pete Seeger. The writing was on the wall. She sang in her church choir as a child, her high school chorus and musical theatre productions. After receiving a BA in Biology from the University of North Florida, she found the pull of music performance to be irresistible, so she began studying symphonic percussion at UNF with then principal percussionist of the Jacksonville Symphony, Charlotte Mabrey. Through her work with Mabrey, she met Arvid Smith. She and Arvid were drawn together by a shared love for folk and world music. The result was a style that transcended the music's origins while honoring its roots. As Tammerlin took on more and more original material, Lee was most often the one wielding the pen and performing her songs with a voice that one Florida music magazine called “haunting, passionate, and powerful”.

Tammerlin's debut CD, the self-released “Roll Down Thy Window, drew critical acclaim from *Folk Roots*, a prominent European folk and world music magazine, and *Dirty Linen*, an equally prominent American-based folk and world music publication. The album was featured on the BBC World Service. *Folk Roots* chose a track from that recording for inclusion on its “Froots #6” compilation CD. The duo continued their trademark now-mystical, now-rootsy sound with their second CD, “Third Weeks A'Lightnin’ (Binky Records)” released in December 1996.

Tammerlin's third recording, “Wind Horses” (Binky Records 2002) featured a number of Lee's stylistically-varied original songs and a number of traditional ballads. The sound prompted *Dirty Linen Magazine* to call Tammerlin “one of the best kept secrets in America”. “Wind Horses” was followed by “One Kind Favor”, released on their own label, BirdsTale Records, in 2005. On this recording, Lee really began to stretch as a songwriter and arranger. There's pop, country, blues, even ragtime, side by side with beautiful arrangements of some traditional fare, including a resurrected ballad from Kentucky, sung by Lee and accompanied by Darol Anger. The London-based world music magazine, *fROOTS*, proclaimed, “gentle shimmers of rootsy Americana”, and Savannah, GA's, *Connect Savannah*, stated, “Lee Hunter's high, wispy vocals and Arvid Smith's captivating dobro and guitarwork reference early Richard & Linda Thompson”.



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The fifth and final recording, “No Small Thing”, featured nine of Lee’s original songs. From the introspective, hook-driven opener “Autumn Refrain” to the bittersweet title song to the hope-filled closing tune “The Last Dance”, beautifully arranged by Darol Anger, her writing proved stronger than ever—lyrical and intelligent, with melodies that stick in your head. Always known for their treatment of traditional songs, the album offers a richly textured reading of “I Once Loved a Lass”, with Arvid’s electric and acoustic 12-strings and Darol Anger’s violins swirling around an acoustic bass foundation created by Byron House. In contrast is “Leaves of Life”, a sparse duet where Joe Craven’s haunting solo violin illuminates Lee’s vocal.

As part of Tammerlin, Lee toured extensively and found and continues to find her music in demand at venues across the U.S. and in Europe. Tammerlin shared the stage with many artists including The Band, Emmylou Harris, Alex De Grassi, Doc Watson, the Del McCoury Band and Dar Williams. And so the adventure continues. “Tammerlin had a great 20 plus year run. I learned so much and am so grateful for all of the experiences I had during that time,” says Lee. “I’m looking forward to the next chapter—to learning more and to finding fresh ways to express music through new partnerships.”

In praise of “No Small Thing” (BirdsTale Records, 2008)

“their fifth overall release not only picks up where Favor left off, but finds Hunter’s songs basking in a magic all their own...A solid step forward.” Dan Willging, *Dirty Linen*

“*No Small Thing* is Tammerlin’s best work to date. Lee Hunter’s songwriting has never been stronger. I have a single disc CD player in my car, and *No Small Thing* has been living there for weeks!”
Pat Crawford, Executive Director, WUWF Media, Producer and host of *Radio Live*, Pensacola, FL

“...a gorgeous, poetic tapestry....Akin to Lebanese-American poet Khalil Gibran—he of “The Prophet” fame—Hunter possesses the wisdom, and the heart, to know that joy and sorrow often walk hand in hand in this life.”
Rick de Yampert, *The Daytona Beach News Journal*

““No Small Thing” is surely a superior album, with very subtle arrangements and stunning performances. This album has been inside my CD player for a long time recently, an event that seldom happens to me as I receive so many CD’s...” Massimo Ferro, *Highway 61*, Radio Voce Spazio, Italy

In praise of “One Kind Favor” (BirdsTale Records, 2005)

“Gentle shimmers of rootsy Americana....” *fROOTS*, London, UK

“There’s a shimmering, airy quality to the arrangements that well suits Hunter’s voice.” *Dirty Linen*

“On the duo’s new CD, “One Kind Favor,” the pair is working at the top of its game. Hunter’s rich, emotive alto gleams like a jewel in sterling musical settings on her own compositions as well as on a selection of well-chosen traditional folk tunes. Smith’s musicianship is immaculate throughout....” *Tallahassee Democrat*

“Tammerlin has done folk and roots music one kind favor with their new work.”
Daytona Beach News Journal

“Lee Hunter has become a very strong writer, and her music fits seamlessly alongside the several traditional pieces....Great guests and excellent musicianship throughout....Excellent record.” *Global Village Idiot* (on-line music zine)

“Lee Hunter’s high, wispy vocals and Arvid Smith’s captivating dobro and guitarwork reference early Richard & Linda Thompson . . . eclectic, well-schooled traditional music that’s forward-thinking and quietly innovative.”
Connect Savannah, Savannah GA



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In praise of Wind Horses (Binky Records, 2002)

"One of the best kept secrets in America". *Dirty Linen Magazine*

"Luminous" *The Tallahassee Democrat*

"Tammerlin have taken folk's roots and majestically nurtured them into the 21st century."
Daytona Beach News Journal

Selected Venues

- The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, Washington, DC
- The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC
- Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston, SC
- Snug Harbor Center, NY
- Suwannee Springfest, Live Oak, FL
- Black Mountain Music Festival, Black Mountain, NC
- The Flatrock Music Festival, Flatrock, NC
- Wings & Strings Americana Music Festival, Polk City, FL
- Florida Springfest, Pensacola, FL
- International Festival, Knoxville, TN
- Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts
- Longwood Gardens Concert Series, PA
- FOOTMAD Series, Charleston, WV
- Festival Sace, Sace, France
- The Handlebar, Greenville, SC
- The Grey Eagle, Asheville, NC
- Advent Arts Acoustic Series, AR
- WUWF Radio Live, Pensacola, FL
- Riverhawk Festival, Dade City, FL

Lee Hunter has appeared in concert with:

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| Doc Watson | Pierce Pettis |
| Emmylou Harris | Steve Forbert |
| The Band | David Massengill |
| Rory Block | The Kennedys |
| Alex De Grassi | Richie Havens |
| Roger McGuinn | and more..... |
| Dar Williams | |
| Martin and Jessica Rubie Simpson | |