**Mountain Thyme** - *Appalachian Celtic Music from West Virginia*

We are an all-women band in West Virginia - the heart of America’s Appalachian Mountains. Like many people here, several of us trace our ancestry to immigrants who came to this place from Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, and England in search of a new life. They brought with them their music and independent spirits, and settled in our beautiful forested hills and isolated green valleys. These roots can be heard in “traditional” mountain music and probably influence the special way that Celtic music tends to resonate with people in our region.

For us it has meant a special attraction to traditional songs and tunes from Celtic lands. This, along with the many contemporary musical influences of our life in America — rock and roll, folk, bluegrass, big band, classical, country music, the Beatles and “British Invasion” of the ‘60’s — and a strong connection to our home in these ancient mountains, lends a distinctive Appalachian Celtic flavor to our music.

Mountain Thyme was founded in 1983 by five friends who had been learning and playing traditional music together informally. The group’s initial musical interests included old time mountain tunes along with folk and Appalachian songs. In no time at all the band began to focus on traditional Celtic tunes and songs, as a reflection of the members’ discovery of, and growing interest in, the music and songs of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany and England. Several members have left the band since it was formed nearly 35 years ago, and new members have joined to continue the unbroken journey of discovering and performing the group’s distinctive Celtic-flavored music.

**Performances**

Mountain Thyme’s songs feature multi-layered vocal harmonies and unaccompanied singing. Themes range from traditional ballads to contemporary folk— encompassing rousing accounts of romantic escapades, tales of trial and challenge, historical sagas, stories of personal experience and place, and amusing expressions of everyday life and events. Our tunes include traditional jigs, reels, hornpipes, marches, waltzes, and original melodies.

The Band

Pam Curry – bouzouki, octave mandolin, autoharp, vocals

Jan Carroll – wooden and silver flutes, penny whistle, vocals

Libby Musser – upright bass, piano, vocals

Linda Workman – guitar, djembe, vocals

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Most of our performances, and our last two recordings, include guest musician Cathy Grant on fiddle and viola.

**Recordings**

* It’s About Thyme
* A Smile at the Door
* West Virginia Chose Me
* She Moved Through the Fair

Acknowledgements

The band has received several special honors including the “Celebrate Women in the Arts” award from the West Virginia Women’s Commission and the “On Location” award by the Kennedy Center for the Arts.

**Contact**

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January 2017