

Anndrena Belcher

"Anndrena is one of our secret national treasures.
More than ever is her gift as a storyteller needed
today. We may have lost our tribal memory, at least for the moment.
It is an artist like Anndrena Belcher who can help us
recapture it." **Studs Terkel**, author and oral historian

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Artist, Leadership Educator, Trainer, Writer, Researcher, Visual Artist, Costumer, Performer, Producer, Recording Artist, Songwriter, Entrepreneur and Champion of Cultural Studies with a commitment to:

- 1) expressing Appalachian Issues with emphasis on rural to urban "in-migration";**
- 2) stressing "migrations" as common denominator to all cultures;**
- 3) educating for an appreciation of cultural and racial differences and similarities.**

FOUNDER/PROPRIETOR of *For Old Times Sake*: a performance entity which tailors to the specific needs of the sponsor. Belcher places emphasis on making the arts available to all citizens, creating multi-talented performances in the following venues: workplace, educational arena, festival, gallery, convention hall and classroom. She is an in-service trainer in arts, education, mental health, creative writing, leadership development and communication fields. Her performances and workshops emphasize the "bi-lingual" nature of Appalachian, and other ethnic and racial speech and writing orientations, as equal to mainstream, standardized, textbook, SOL English. I She is a ten year veteran of the Virginia Commission for the Arts Tour.

EDUCATION Master of Arts in the Social Sciences – Northeastern Illinois University
Emphasis on Appalachian Studies and rural to urban Uptown, Chicago" in-migration"
Bachelor of Arts – English, Northeastern Illinois University

PERFORMANCES Selected as examples:

National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1998, and 2003 (Midnight Cabaret).
Chicago Teachers Center, Keynote Speaker / Workshop Leader, Wells High School "Diversity Day". 2003
Glistening Waters Storytelling Festival, Masterton, New Zealand, 1994.
Timpanagos Storytelling Festival, Orem, Utah, 2001.
Storyfest International, Seattle, Washington, 2001.
Novello Festival, Charlotte, NC, 2001.
Ohio University, Appalachian Studies Conference, "The Women of Appalachia", October 2001.
Ralph Stanley Museum Mountain Music Festival, Clintwood, Va., September, 2006, 2007, 2008
21st Century Learning, workshops and performances, Lebanon, Swords Creek, Va. 2006, 2007
Jettie Baker Center, Clintwood, Va., Youth Storytelling Showcase, May, 2007
Pro-Art Association, Concerts: Tacoma Center and UVA at Wise, 2005, Schools Tour 2006
Bluebird Café, Sunday Writer's Night, Nashville, Tn., November 12, Writer in the Round, 2008
Wintergreen Performing Arts Tour, September, 2007
Southwest Virginia Consumer and Family Involvement, Leap Graduation Performer, September, 2007
Prince William Public Library, National Library Week, Woodbridge and Manassas, Va. April 13-16TH, 2008
Radford University, Appalachian Awareness Day Festival, February 13th, 2008
Lincoln Theater, Storytelling Festival, December, 2008
Right to Read Celebration, Oakwood Elementary School, May, 2009, Oakwood, Ohio, Stories From Home
William Byrd Settlement House, Oral History workshops and performances, March, 2009
Richmond, Va. (Sponsored by Uptown Peoples Law Center and Virginia Commission for the Arts)
Cumberland Gap National Park, Memorial Day, 2009, Stories From Home, stories and songs
Phi Theta Kappa Honors Institute Conference, "The Paradox of Affluence", Williamsburg, Va., 2009
Southwest Virginia Community College, Speaker, Cultural Committee Series on Displacement: Rldin' Route 23:
This Hillbilly Highway, **December 4th, 2009**

FILM AND TELEVISION:

Tellin' Tales, The Kentucky Educational Television Network, (KET) featured storyteller and contributing writer for Teachers' Guides developed in conjunction with program, 1988-1990, Still airing.

Dancing Threads: Community Dances from Africa to Zuni, host, producer, performer and writer for the Kentucky Educational Television (KET) multi-cultural dance/singing games series. Filmed in 1994 Still airing.

America's War on Poverty, BlackSides, Inc., Boston, MA Documentary Series includes interview with Anndrena about her family's migration to Chicago. Filmed in 1994, television premiered January 1995.

Long Journey Home, Appalshop Films, documentary 1989

Passing it On, documentary film, Kentucky Educational Television, 1990.

Next of Kin, Lorimar, feature film starring Patrick Swayze and Liam Neeson, 1989, actress.

Story Barn, Television pilot for syndicated program. Doug Wyles Productions, New York, New York, 1991.

Star Channel, Kentucky Educational Television, Live Storytelling Workshop, 1991.

Old Tales for New Kids, Johnson City's WJHL TV storytelling series: 1994, 1995, and 1996.

RECORDINGS: Hog On Ice Productions is Anndrena Belcher's Production Label.

For Old Times Sake: Videotape, Hog on Ice Productions, 1998 (90 minute interactive performance of two tales, one narrative tale, interspersed with family archival photos, interview with Anndrena, and children's art) This video has two different prices of purchase. One for home viewing, and a higher price for classroom and library viewing. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.

For Old Times Sake: Audiocassette to CD, Hog On Ice Productions, 1986
(Oral History, folktales, music and poems. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, All rights reserved.)

A Flying View of the World: Audiocassette to CD, New Hillbilly Music, 1993, Hog On Ice, 2001.

(Folktales, songs, the poems of Emma Bell Miles, original stories. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, All rights reserved.)

Gussin' Up: Audiocassette to CD, Hog on Ice Productions, 1993

(Folktales, original stories and songs and music, copyright Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.)

Princess Witch: Audio cassette to CD, Hog on Ice productions, 1994

(Original Tale intended for picture book publication. No music. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.)

Sweet Lucy: Audio cassette to CD, Hog on Ice Productions, 1994

Original songs performed A Capella, vocal and guitar; includes the "migration" story Entitled "Ella Mae Speaks: My Personal Story of Migration and Diversity", interspersed with spoken memory excerpts from manuscript "Ridin' Route 23", copyright, Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.

Anndrena A Capella: Origins, Hog on Ice Productions. 2001,

12 songs written by Anndrena and performed here the way her Grandmothers taught her. CD precedes recording of original songs with accompaniment. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.

What About My Heart: Songs from a life lived in the crux of contradiction, Hog on Ice Productions, 2003.

Original songs with musical accompaniment, original artwork, lyric booklet, in biodegradable, cardboard packaging. Copyright, Anndrena Belcher, all rights reserved.

AWARDS

Nominee: Governor's Award for the Arts, Virginia, 2000

Center for Appalachian Studies, SONGWRITING CONTEST, Country and Folk Divisions,
East Tennessee State University

Tennessee Arts Commission Touring, "Night of the Arts" Celebration, Morristown, Tn., 2005

Dan Paul Foundation, Leadership Development Matching Grant,

Storytelling workshops and performances. Va., Ky., Oh., Md., Tn., and Chicago, Illinois, 2005

Virginia Commission for the Arts Tour Directry, 1991-2011. <http://www.arts.virginia.gov>

Anndrena's Designs: Anndrena's Old Timey, High- Fashioned, "Hiney-Binder" Bustle Jumper, a modified overall dress created by Anndrena and produced by LC King Manufacturing in Bristol, Tn., as an attempt to marry Anndrena's interest in creative and durable clothes design with a local business which provides a good working conditions. See www.Anndrena.com
This is a one of 144 signed wearable art piece, the first in Anndrena's "Clothes to the Heart" collection.

Ridin' Route 23

Words fall off the pages in snapshot images as this child of the 1950's rural to urban "in-migration" tells of her bicultural lifestyle. The Eastern Kentucky coalfields, inner city Uptown, Chicago and the road that connects the two are the worlds we look into as Anndrena talks her talk. Memory pictures present themselves in personal stories, made up "fairy tales", poems and narrative clips. Each part creates the whole word album. The journey will take you home, no matter where you are from.

Dancing in the Wilderness

Anndrena showcases her songwriting in performance and workshop. Features songs performed on her latest recording "What About My Heart?", "Sweet Lucy", and her new work in progress CD "Chickens in the Yard, or; Beggar, The Question". Presented as a solo performance, and as accompanied by other musicians.

Stories From Home

Anndrena's personal oral history performance integrates folktales, song, dance, and poetry in an innovative style, which reflects both her Eastern Kentucky roots, and the rural to urban "in-migration" experience.

Passing It On: Three Generations:

This art exhibit presents the art of Clara Belcher, (Anndrena's Mother), along with Anndrena's drawings and written word. We see a beautiful and inspiring example of how the women of one family have "turned to art" over the generations. Clara's mother, Mollie, and Anndrena's other Grandmother, Leon, are honored too. Visual art and stories emphasize the importance of identifying art in their everyday life and culture.

SELECT MUSIC AND SONGWRITING PERFORMANCES:

Summitt City Lounge, Whitesburg, Ky., **Anndrena Belcher and The Wildboys**, August, 2009

Down Home Music Room, Johnson City, Tn., **Anndrena Belcher and The Wildboys**, October 10, 2009

Mountain Empire Community College, Home Crafts Day Festival, Big Stone Gap, Va., **Anndrena Belcher and the Wildboys**, October, 2009

PUBLICATIONS:

"The Hills Meet Hollywood, Now and Then", The Appalachian Magazine, Fall, 1991.

"Granny Gifts", Best Loved Stories Told at the National Storytelling Festival, 1990.

Additional Productions:

Migration Stories from Inside "Hillbilly Heaven", Oral history interview sampler of rural to urban Uptown, Chicago migrants from the Appalachian coalfields, farms and beyond. (Sponsored by Uptown Peoples Law Center. **Summer, 2009.** Excerpt from work in progress collection, **In the Good Ole' Hills of Uptown**, all rights reserved, uplc.) **2008, 2009, work in progress0**

Anndrena Belcher and the Wildboys, Demo. Fall, 2009 5 songs with accompaniment by Phil Leonard, percussion, and Roger Rasnake on guitars, dobro, and mandolin

"Mountain Life and Work: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Collecting Ourselves, cd, summer, 2007

Anndrena serves as Oral History interviewer and producer for students, parents and Grandparents who participated in Dickenson County, Virginia Oral History project funded by the VPI extension service in Clintwood, Va., the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Board of Supervisors. Clintwood, Va.

New Design Project: My Cup to Keep, glass drinking jar with handle, band and lid. Reusable, washable alternative to plastic/Styrofoam. Ordered through Quillen Hardware in Gate City, Va., email Anndrena for info.

