

KATE CALLAHAN EXTENDED BIO
www.Kate-Callahan.com

Kate Callahan has always had a light in her when it comes to songwriting and singing; it makes every experience with her audiences unique. She gets to say that playing music is her job. But what most people don't know is that Kate's job helps people feel love no matter how their day has been. When her music and her heart are working together, she expresses herself in ways she couldn't have predicted, with words she hasn't prepared. This is when Kate feels closest to her uninhibited nature. Then the chance exists for her heart to intimately transform an ordinary concert moment into something extraordinary for people to feel and pass on to those around them.

Today, Kate is at her best when giving concerts; this is one constant in her life. Callahan's career has given her the opportunity to serve something greater while being true to herself. As a folk singer, what better way to serve a greater purpose than by being Connecticut's 16th State Troubadour (2016-2018). Since her appointment in March 2016, Kate has performed music throughout all four corners of the state, meeting venue owners, radio DJs, public access crews, and other folk singers all making efforts to awaken communities with music and messages of equality, solidarity and justice. As State Troubadour, she is most humbled to work with female inmates at York Correctional Institution. Thanks to a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Kate's Miracle of Melody pilot program serves to remind women who've been incarcerated that their voices can still have a positive impact on their lives.

Empowering the voice is personal to Callahan. Twenty years ago, she suffered a brain injury in a ski accident and found that she could no longer sing. Kate didn't understand that she could open her mouth and make melodies. Giving up on her voice, she decided to try and learn to play the guitar. She thought it would be impossible, but her teacher Jamie Sherwood treated Kate like every one of his other students. Over time not only did she become skilled at the guitar, but she also got her singing voice back. It felt like a miracle, which is why, twenty years later, Kate is drawn to the name Miracle of Melody for her vocal empowerment program.

A singer first, Kate also loves to use her voice to tell stories and weave anecdotes about the healing power of music throughout her concerts. She's learned from some of the best, having shared stages with songwriter legends Judy Collins, Noel Paul Stookey (Peter, Paul & Mary), Aztec Two Step, John Gorka, Claudia Schmidt, Mustard's Retreat, and the late Bill Morrissey. A staple in the Connecticut music scene, Kate has received recognition as the Woman of Character from the Hartford Courant, Best Songwriter in Connecticut at the CT Music Awards 2013, Artist of the Year from the Greater Hartford Arts Council, 2014, and Best Singer-Songwriter from the CT Now Readers Poll 2017. Noel Paul Stookey (Peter, Paul & Mary) refers to Kate's songs as "*Zen-like,*" and the Boston Globe praises, "*Kate has garnered an appreciative audience with her easygoing vibe and inspirational, at times mystical lyrics.*"

Kate has come to understand over the years that her voice can help not only herself, but others, to experience the mystery of life. When something feels soulful to her, she'll say it or sing it or write it. WNPR host Colin McEnroe praised a performance of Kate's, saying "*Kate Callahan is the only performer I've ever seen who occasionally seems to be channeling something vaster and far more ancient than herself, something more easily understood by Emerson than by any modern person.*" His quote moved her to tears (and chills) when she read it five years ago. Yet it's taken Kate all this time to understand who she is and how she wants to help here through her music.

Singer-songwriters come and go, but Kate has truly risen out of life's hardships to write and recently release her fourth album of courageously themed songs... appropriately titled, "*Triumph.*" This studio release brightens the ear with Kate's pure melodies and her verve for writing uplifting songs despite the times. Bold and optimistic, Kate Callahan is here to stay.