

JO SERRAPERRE & JOHN DEVINE

www.joserrapere.com

BIOGRAPHY

Earthwork Collective artist Jo Serrapere (sarah-pear), a songwriter from Detroit, Michigan, started playing guitar at 23 when seeking out lessons from Delta Blues guitarist, Shari Kane. Shortly thereafter, Jo began writing her own songs while completing her college studies in clinical psychology. She now plays at music venues throughout the US with her many projects as well as maintaining a successful psychotherapy practice and raising her delightful daughter with music and life partner, John Devine.



Whether recreating old classic songs or performing original songs in their own confessional and comic styles, Jo and John's music stands original while always reflecting their love of American roots music. Their eclectic writing and performance fuses elements of various modern and traditional folk music, Delta and electric blues, roots

rock, classic and alt-country, garage rock surf and swing. Jo plays both guitar and drums in this project.

John Devine, also a Detroit native, attended Master's classes in classical guitar at Miami University. He went on to explore traditional blues styles and develop a love for the "race records" of the 1920's and 30's. John performed as a solo blues artist and songwriter

before teaming up with Jo in 1998. He continues to explore other forms of American roots music and teach his craft.

Jo and John often perform in their band, **Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns** (with David Roof and Stuart Tucker) which brings added depth and musical styling to their original songs as well as classics from such artists as Mississippi John Hurt, Bessie Smith and Tom Waits. Jo is also the founding member of the old-time group **Uncle Earl** and current member of the all-female country roots band, **Stella!**

RESUME

- Jo and WDs have **performed twice on NPR's live radio program, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor.**
- Jo's song, "Rise Up Bones" was featured on the 2018 Detroit Music Award-winning album, "Dance With the Devil" by the Theatre Bizarre Orchestra.
- Jo's music video, "In and Out of Love" by Milk Products Media was featured at the 2017 Chicago International Film Festival.
- In 2007 and 2009 Jo was featured on the Sirius Satellite Radio Program, **Kick Out the Jams** in NYC with Dave Marsh, rock critic, Bruce Springsteen Biographer and former editor of Rolling Stone and Creem Magazines.
- Jo and the Willie Dunns' White Room recordings were chosen to be used to promote Audio Engineering Associates (AEA) ribbon microphone line. AEA's clients include Faith Hill and Tim McGraw, Emmylou Harris, Ry Cooder, Tony Bennett, Pete Townsend, Keb Mo and more.
- Jo was selected as an **official showcase artist at the 1998 North American Folk Alliance Conference** in Memphis, TN. This conference is the most prestigious folk and acoustic music conference in the world. She has also showcased at the CMJ Music Conference in NYC, the NEA Extravaganza in Nashville, the LMNOP Conference in New Orleans, the Philadelphia Music Conference and at the Americana Music Association Conference in Nashville.
- She **won "Best Vocalist"** in the acoustic music category at the **Detroit Music Awards.**
- Jo has represented the **Folk Alliance in the Nashville Entertainment Association Extravaganza at the renown Bluebird Cafe.**
- Jo **won the songwriting competition at the 1999 South Florida Folk Festival** for "Best Ballad" with her song *Dream, My Girl*.
- Jo Serrapere has performed multiple times on **the Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour** in Lexington, KY.
- Jo and her bands have **opened for** national acts such as **Emmylou Harris, Ralph Stanley, Guy Davis, R.L. Burnside, Bill Morrissey** and **Mary Gauthier.**
- Jo has also performed in the past with the Lil'Darlin's Vaudeville Troupe and with the a capella group, Lorelei at the **2006 Superbowl XL** and the **MLB 2005 & 2006 All Star Games.**
- **MUSIC FESTIVALS**
 - Ann Arbor Folk Festival (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - Wheatland Music Festival (Remus, MI)
 - Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (Walhalla)
 - NotSXSW Festival (Austin, TX)
 - Bluesfest International (Windsor, ON)
 - Grape Jam Festival (Erie, PA)
 - Detroit Tastefest (Detroit, MI)
 - International Fest Of Arts&Ideas (NewHaven, CT)
 - Fingerlakes Grassroots Festival (Trumansburg, NY)
 - Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival (Chapel Hill, NC)
 - Nor-East'r Festival (Mio, MI)
 - Spirit of the Woods (Brethren, MI)
 - Hollerfest (Brooklyn, MI)
 - Porcupine Mts. Music Festival (Ontonogon, MI)
 - Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage (Washington, DC)
 - Twangfest (St. Louis, MO)
 - Winter Wheat (Grand Rapids, MI)
 - Flint Music Festival (Flint, MI)
 - Kerrville Folk Festival (Kerrville, TX)
 - Ann Arbor Summer Festival (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - Dogwood Festival (Atlanta, GA)
 - S. Florida Folk Festival (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)
 - Farmfest (Johannesburg, MI)
 - Blissfest (Cross Village, MI)
 - Arts, Beats & Eats Festival (Royal Oak, MI)
 - Riverfolk Festival (Manchester, MI)
 - Alpena Blues Festival (Alpena, MI)
 - Earthwork Harvest Gathering (Lake City MI)
 - Taste of Chicago Music Festival (Chicago, IL)

DISCOGRAPHY

• **Dollar Store Nation by Jo Serrapere & the LaFawndas (Earthwork Music, 2016).** From classic country to swing to modern rock, Jo's original music sounds classic but with modern commentary on the times. This album was nominated for 2 Detroit Music Awards.

• **Sorry, Stella by Stella! (Earthwork Music, 2012).** The recent release made the Americana Music Association Chart, the Route 66 Chart and the Freeform American Roots Chart. It has been a featured selection on Dave Marsh's Sirius Radio program *Kick out the Jams*.

• **Love Going South by Jo Serrapere (Detroit Radio Co., 2009).** Jo's recent release held the #1 position for two months on the Freeform American Roots Chart, and made its top 10 list of 2009. It has also been a featured

selection on Dave Marsh's Sirius Radio program *Kick out the Jams*.

• **Tonight at Johnny's Speakeasy by Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns (Detroit Radio Co., 2002).**

Live CD which reached #13 on the *Freeform American Roots Chart* in 2003. John Conquest, editor of Texas Magazine's *Third Coast Music* and the *Freeform American Roots Chart* voted this CD #6 album of 2003.

• **She Went Upstairs by Uncle Earl (Detroit Radio Co., 2002).** Jo released a bluegrass and old-time Appalachian CD with songwriter K.C. Groves under the band name Uncle Earl. **Produced by Grammy Award artist Sally Van Meter**, this recording contains an all-

female cast of musicians including Van Meter and Laurie Lewis.

• **My Blue Heaven by Jo Serrapere (One Man Clapping Records, 1998).** Includes *Oil and Water*, *Current Magazine's* number one song of 1997 in Michigan.

• Jo appears on the 2005 self-titled recording by the gypsy jazz inspired **Royal Garden Trio** (Tom Bogardus, Brian Delaney, Mike Karoub) with the Shavers and Robin standard *Undecided*. This particular cut was featured prominently on many jazz radio programs including the CBC.

• Jo and WDs appear on **H.U.A.C. (Hot Unsigned and Unsung Americana Compilation) Volumes I and II** (Catamount Records, 2003 & 2004).

REVIEWS

"I might take a train, I might take a plane, but if I have to walk, I know I'm gonna see Jo Serrapere again. Like anybody else who might make you laugh and cry in the same song, she's too good to pass up."

– **Dave Marsh, Music Critic & Author**
Born to Run: The Bruce Springsteen Story,
Former Editor of Creem and Rolling Stone Magazine

"Jo Serrapere is a very special artist. She moves effortlessly within musical genres from blues and jazz to contemporary folk songs... I am confident Jo will continue to bring new things to the larger musical community."

– **Jim Fleming,**
Fleming and Associates, Artist Representative
for Ani DiFranco, Suzy Bogguss, Kelly Joe Phelps and Jeff Daniels

"The lyrics and content are strong with songs that deal with human issues of life and love... It's a pleasure to hear a woman who can sing the 'Blues' and sing them well."

– **Bonnie Austring-Winter**
CBC Radio

"Writes first rate blues songs... and sings with a convincing assurance and bite."

– **Dirty Linen**

"Four Stars! A post-feminist speakeasy..."

– **Karen Koski,**
Detroit Metro Times

"A spring breeze in a bleak winter of Ani DiFranco clones. More influenced by the likes of Kurt Weill than by the new breed of female pop singers, Serrapere can haul an old song into the 21st century and still treat it with respect. Old song or new, she is a compelling performer whose material is smart, sharp, sexy, highly individual and capable of galvanizing an audience. Personally, I think she is going to be around for a long time, and she could wind up being a major player."

– **Dave Siglin,**
Owner of The Ark (retired) and Ann Arbor Folk Festival

"I stumbled on the amazing Ms. Serrapere on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion. Her voice and songwriting cut through the crappy, tinny speaker in my truck like smooth buttercream falling through a rusty sieve, and I heard a young talent that did the most damnably hard thing in music: made sexy sound wholesome. Quick, somebody put a big band behind this woman and tell them to do whatever the heck she says."

– **Berkeley Breathed,**
Screenwriter, filmmaker, and creator of Pulitzer Prize winning comic strips "Bloom County" and "Outland"

"... Recalls the way Jimmie Rodgers used to sing the blues... Her vocals remind me of early Emmylou."

– **Bernard Canut,**
Radio Canut, France

"Love Going South is stunning!"

– **Mark Taylor,**
WVUD Newark, DE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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