

## Long Bio

Jane Godfrey has been playing the guitar since she was eleven and singing harmonies with her sisters and brothers since further back than memory serves her. Jane was a shy middle child growing up in a household of nine siblings, where music and art were staples whether at home in St. Louis or at the family cabin in Minnesota. Although Jane didn't realize it at the time, traditions like family sing-alongs and music jams with her siblings were the foundation on which her songwriting imagination was built. Eventually, after getting married, three children, two college degrees and work as an educator of the hearing-impaired and deaf, Jane quit her job and began pursuing creative interests. She tried her hand at creating educational materials and greeting cards while dabbling in songwriting. Just after finishing her first song, in an auspicious twist of fate, a Girl Scout Leaders magazine arrived in the mail with a back-cover ad for a songwriting contest. So Jane wrote three more songs and submitted them. *Thank You Ms Juliette*, a bluegrass tribute to the founder of the Girl Scouts, won the contest and Jane's recording was included in the GSUSA's 2000 CD, **Sisters Hand in Hand**. In the meantime, always the late-bloomer, Jane realized she had finally found her calling. Jane's passion for songwriting grew, prompting road-trips to Nashville where her skills were nurtured by attending songwriting workshops and performing at writers' showcases, including the infamous Bluebird Café. Her original intention was to write for other artists because standing on stage and performing for others was both dream and nightmare for Jane. But realizing that she needed to overcome her crippling performance anxiety in order to get her songs heard, she hit the open mics. In order to keep herself from giving in to the critics in her head, Jane adopted the philosophy, "Do it badly until it's good". Jane's first real solo gig coincided with her 50th birthday, and then, encouraged by audience requests, she hit the studio and brought in her siblings for instrumental backup, vocal harmonies, and moral support.

Jane's 2007 release, **Choose Beauty**, is a collection of songs honoring the ordinary and revealing the beauty and little truths in everyday life. It showcases strong melodies in an eclectic mix of folk, rock and a little Western swing. As the album lyrics demonstrate, Jane possesses both a poetic sensibility, influenced by literary songwriters such as Joni Mitchell and Patty Griffin; and drawing inspiration from John Prine and Steve Goodman, a knack for storytelling with a subtle sense of humor. The CD's final track, *Finally Loving Myself*, was included the following year, along with songs from Paul Williams, Mary Gauthier and Jon Vezner, in Gracie Vandiver's 2008 Prism Award winning CD, **Trail of Light**. Ten years later, another song from the album, *Ordinary Prayer*, would be solicited and arranged for a choir by Adam Maness. In a dream performance for Jane, she would sing the song in a historic church with accompaniment and back up by the The Women's Hope Chorale of St. Louis.

Within four years after her debut CD Jane experienced the loss of her mother, her sister and a close friend. With a heightened awareness of life around her, Jane slowly but steadily worked through her grief with a sometimes wavering but renewed sense of purpose. Never imagining that it would be many years before she compiled the best of her songs into another album, Jane dug in and opened further her soul, writing songs around topics that matter deeply to her. The added depth and heart of Jane's writing is apparent in her 2019 release, **Imagine We Have Wings**, where again she called on her siblings for backup instrumentals and harmonies, and produced an album that bears witness to Jane's love and understanding of the human condition.

Proudly embracing the moniker "Bravest of introverted entertainers", Jane writes and performs in her self-titled genre of "Urban Campfire Cabaret". She performs locally and nationally as a solo artist, as half of the duo, "CatBird" with Chicago singer/songwriter, Sue Fink, and occasionally with her siblings in "The Murphy Family Band".