

what people are saying **Elisabeth von Trapp**

c.a., waterford, n.y. I have just purchased your CD's, *Poetic License* and *Love Never Ends* ... I can only say that your music just keeps getting better and better! Thank you for doing your own thing, and following your heart...Your interpretations are unique, wonderful and truly special. Your style is distinctive and rare. Keep up the great work. p.s. Erich Kory on cello is also a joy!

d.s., burlington, vt I know I sent you a note about your new CD, *Love Never Ends*, but whatever I said, it wasn't enough. S and I are so enthralled with your work on this album, both the singing and the composition, that we can't come up with words that seem adequate to describe how deeply you've touched us. Thanks for sharing your gifts with the world.

b.k., reidsville,n.c. I cannot tell you what the concert meant to our people here in Reidsville. The singing was exquisite, the cello renditions and accompaniments marvelous beyond belief. Our folks will definitely want you to come for an encore performance. It was an absolute, pure blessing.

j.b., burlington, vt Just a note to thank you for a wonderful performance last night. It will most likely be the most "Christmas-type" thing we'll get to enjoy this year. The only suggestion I would have is next time please remind me to bring more tissues. I cried tears of pure joy and came to terms with all of our blessings. It was just grand to sit quietly and just "be". Listening to your beautiful gift of music transcended us to the place that let us relax and just be thankful. Merry Christmas!

k.r., chatauqua, ny I know we all sometimes question whether our lives and what we do makes any difference. Know that you , your talent and your music make a difference.

r.d. I love the new album *Poetic License*. I will even recommend it to friends. I was always a big fan of Robert Frost, and it's great to hear his work set to such beautiful music. This album was well worth the wait.

s.w., marlborough, ma I bought *Poetic License* and carried it around in my car for many weeks. Finally, I stuck it in the player, listened through ... then I listened to it again and again, and then continuously for a week whenever I was driving ... by the third listening, it became one of the most important bits of music I have ever heard. At the risk of giving a goldfish a bath, you do have a serious genius at bringing poetry and music together, and then performing the combination with brilliant interpretation.

I will confess that it took me a few listenings to get past the "pretty voice". It's like seeing something perfectly white and perfectly clean. It comes into the conscious, is recognized as flawless, and is passed over. It took the multiple listenings to hear the content and very artistic delivery, which are *completely* independent of the vocal instrument. You happen to have vocal competence in spades.

p.p., nashville, tn My mother and I just got in from seeing Elisabeth von Trapp in concert for the second time (first time was two months ago in Vermont) here at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre, and as usual, she was wonderful! I know I keep repeating myself, but if you EVER get the chance to see her in concert, DO IT!!!! She is fantastic!!!!

l.m., new york

Dear Elisabeth, I just love the song [Early Rose and Grey] and would like to play and sing it. Where could I get sheet music (piano) for the song. I just love your voice. Some day my husband and I would like to come to one of your performances. Perhaps some time you are in upstate New York. Thanks

g.l., hinesburg,vt

I don't believe I have ever witnessed an audience so focused and enraptured with a performer and his/her music. Deservedly so - it was a special evening that I am unlikely to forget. We are veterans of nearly every First Night, and I immediately shared with my wife and friends that yours was the best First Night performance I had ever witnessed. If you agree to return, the organizers will surely need to arrange a larger venue – I can assure you that word will travel.

Music has the power to move me, and I found your voice and music moving me like few others in my 50+ year lifetime. Erich's wonderfully musical accompaniment, your voice, and your material combined to regularly bring tears to my eyes. I surely hope you realize what a gift you have to share.

j.t., haverhill, ma

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciated hearing you sing at the First Night in Burlington, Vermont. Your voice is one of the most magnificent voices I have heard in my life. Your stage presence was elegant and sincere, and your message was one of hope in these troubled times. Thank you, Elizabeth

martin, barcelona, spain

Hola! Elisabeth: Today I have received your CD, *Poetic License*. This is what I have felt when listening to your music. Your interpretation of the song "A Whiter Shade of Pale" it has seemed superb, oh yes really! You have made a version so different to those that are habitually made, you have transformed it with your voice and with the changes in the melody, that I find wonderful because the song acquires this way a new dimension and mainly that beautiful cello, please congratulate Eric for his extraordinary feeling that is appreciated in his way of playing.

The rest of the CD has surprised me a lot, because I didn't know you. I believe that your music you can qualify as a delicate way to feel the passion for the music. And now I only hope to be able to listen to you some day, maybe, here in Barcelona. Many thanks again and I wish you all the best, Martin

roger newton, phila., pa

Robert Frost died in 1963, the year I graduated from Middlebury. I enjoyed Frost's visits to Midd. He read his poems and answered both our perceptive and our naïve questions. I fervently hoped that one day someone would simply and subtly set Frost's poems to music to capture and enhance their beauty and power. Forty-odd years later Elisabeth von Trapp exquisitely fulfilled my hope.

When Elisabeth sings and plays guitar, she reveals classical, jazz, folk and purely personal qualities. Her CD *Poetic License*, which includes five Frost poems, is ravishingly beautiful.

Frost said he regretted that many readers thought the meaning of Mending Wall was the neighbor's Good fences make good neighbors. What he actually meant was, Something there is that doesn't love a wall. But Frost erected a wall around his poems when he refused to allow musicians to set them to music.

Elisabeth has lovingly dismantled the wall between Frost's deeply human poems and their musical expression. If Frost had lived to hear her, he would have torn down the wall himself. Frost wanted his poems to capture the sound of speech, not the sound of music. But poetry and music complement each other. Art at its best does not imitate nature. It elevates nature. The best poetry and the best music, as Frost and von Trapp create them, combine to elevate nature so high that the New England hills, home to both artists, are alive with the sound of it.

When von Trapp sings Frost, music and sweet poetry agree, as Shakespeare wrote in *The Passionate Pilgrim*. Von Trapp's lyrical setting of the bard's sonnet, delicately accompanied by cellist Erich Kory, eloquently captures the harmony of the arts. And she brings Shakespeare to life with as great a flair as Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges, Paul Gonsalves, Clark Terry and other members of Ellington's band did in their instrumental Shakespearean suite *Such Sweet Thunder*.

Von Trapp's interpretation of four translated 17th-century Haiku leaves me breathless. I never believed a musical saw could intrigue me until I heard Stefan Scherthaner accompany von Trapp on one in the Japanese-inspired piece.

Von Trapp's arrangement for voice and folk guitar of Schubert's *An die Musik* makes me think of the way I have always imagined Silent Night must have sounded when it was first sung and played on guitar on a 19th century Christmas Eve when a parish church's organ failed to work. When the poet addressed a personified music as *Du holde Kunst* (thou lovely art), he could have been addressing Ms. von Trapp's own music.

s.p., salisbury, n.c. There are so few people that can produce truly magical music and it needs to be kept alive, and you are at the forefront. I wish you many more years of music and happiness, and I feel especially honored to be a spectator as you evolve and experiment with different musical directions and conquer new horizons.

Your music is different, it is real. I had time yesterday, to listen to your Christmas CD, and again your magic was overpowering and majestic. I wanted to thank you for the enjoyment your recordings have bestowed and the hours of enjoyment that I have received from them. Truly incredible!

I listen mainly to bluegrass music now ... Your rendition of Whiter Shade of Pale literally made me shiver. You are such a gifted songwriter; to hear you pay tribute to another's music is noteworthy in itself; but to hear it actually sung better, with more dimension and soul, is awe-inspiring.