

THE WAILIN' JENNYS BIOGRAPHY

The Wailin' Jennys are **Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody and Heather Masse**—three distinct voices that together make an achingly perfect vocal sound.

Starting as a happy accident of solo singer-songwriters getting together for a one-time-only performance at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, The Wailin' Jennys have earned their place as one of today's most beloved international folk

groups. Founding members **Ruth Moody** and **Nicky Mehta**, along with New York-based **Heather Masse**, continue to create some of the most exciting and exquisite music on the folk-roots scene, stepping up their musical game with each critically-lauded recording and thrilling audiences with their renowned live performances.

In 2004, Red House Records released The Wailin' Jennys' first full-length album, **40 Days**, in the U.S. to great critical acclaim, and in 2005 it won them a **Juno Award (Canadian Grammy)** for Roots & Traditional Album of the Year. Bolstered by their frequent appearances on Garrison Keillor's public radio show **A Prairie Home Companion**, The Jennys exploded onto the roots music scene, performing at packed venues across the U.S. and throughout the world. Their next CD, **Firecracker**, was a powerful follow-up to their debut album and found The Jennys stepping out of the folk realm and into the world of alt-country, pop and rock. Garnering much attention, it was nominated for a Juno Award and won a **2007 Folk Alliance Award** for "Contemporary Release of the Year." It charted for over 56 weeks on the *Billboard* charts and was followed up by their 2009 release **Live at the Mauch Chunk Opera House**, which spent over a year on the *Billboard* bluegrass charts.

The Wailin' Jennys joined the ranks of Lucinda Williams and Emmylou Harris by recording their 2011 studio album **Bright Morning Stars** with award-winning producer **Mark Howard**, co-produced by frequent Jennys collaborator and **Juno Award-nominated David Travers-Smith**.

Although known primarily as an acoustic outfit, The Wailin' Jennys have a wide range of musical backgrounds that have formed their musical sensibilities. Soprano **Ruth Moody** (vocals, guitar, accordion, banjo, bodhrán) is a classically trained vocalist and pianist known as an accomplished, versatile singer of traditional and Celtic music and was the lead singer of Juno-nominated roots band Scruj MacDuhk. Red House Records released her first full-length solo album **The Garden**, whose title track was the **#4 most played song of 2010** on folk radio followed by 2013's **These Wilder Things**. She recently became a mother to a son, Woodson.

Mezzo **Nicky Mehta** (vocals, guitar, drums, ukulele) is a self-taught musician and classically trained dancer raised on '70s AM radio. She was nominated for a Canadian Indie Music Award for her solo album **Weather Vane** and is working on a follow-up while also preparing for the release of a new children's book based on the lyrics of her song "Away But Never Gone" from **Bright Morning Stars**. When at home she splits her time between composing for contemporary dance and engaging in various social justice initiatives. With the Jennys, she spearheaded their ongoing relationship with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to raise awareness and funds for the cause. She is the proud mother of twin boys, Beck and Finn.

Alto **Heather Masse** (vocals, upright bass) is a Jazz Voice graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and is a regular guest on *A Prairie Home Companion*. She has also toured with her own band, supporting her 2009 Red House release **Bird Song**. Masse has released two jazz collaborations with Red House: **Lock My Heart**, a collection of standards pairing her with keyboard legend **Dick Hyman**, and **August Love Song**, which found Masse united with free jazz trombonist Roswell Rudd. She is the mother of a son, August. With their varying backgrounds, each of the Jennys are unique in their individual expression. Together they forge a unified folk-pop sound—all delivered with the irresistible vocal power of three.

For more information about **The Wailin' Jennys**, please visit www.thewailinjennys.com.



The Wailin' Jennys: Ruth Moody, Nicky Mehta, Heather Masse