

Cathryn Craig - Bio

It's in her family genes.....Craig's great grandfather, Jacob Sowder, provided half a dozen songs for Cecil J. Sharp's collection "**English Folksongs in the Southern Appalachians.**" The Sowder's lived near the Pigg River, in Franklin County, Virginia. Her father enjoyed a varied career, eventually becoming a District Court Judge for the state of Virginia. Her mother, Anne Creighton Orange died when Cathryn was young. She has one sister, Susan. Raised in a household where there was always music, typical of a southern upbringing it was a strict mix of church music and old standards. When she moved to Colorado to attend College, Cathryn joined an acoustic trio and began performing in public. A subsequent move to Aspen was followed by one to Denver, and from there *the road* took her to Los Angeles. In 1980 Cathryn began working with Bill Medley. In truth their act was strictly for cabaret audiences. In fact it was Medley suggested that she should move to Nashville. Craig didn't have to be told twice. As a session and demo singer on 16th Avenue, she worked with and recorded for artists as diverse as Mickey Newbury, Bobby Bare, Emmylou Harris, Shel Silverstein, Bob Gibson, Jorma Kaukonen and Tom Paxton. On the opening credits of the 1993 Peter Bogdanovich's movie '**A Thing Called Love**' which starred the late River Phoenix, Craig can be heard singing 'Spring Always Comes.' Craig had begun writing songs during her college days, but was always reluctant to play them for anyone, frightened of the criticism that might result. In 1993, English country singer Gary Hall arrived in Nashville to record an album, and Cathryn was hired to sing on the sessions. Hearing some of her compositions, Hall complimented her writing and suggested that she work as an artist in her own right. On a acoustic club tour of the British Isles, Craig met John Tompson of Goldrush Records, Perth, Scotland. The debut album on the Goldrush label was Cathryn's '**Porch Songs**' which was recorded live on her back porch in Nashville, complete with the sound of chirping crickets. In 1997 her next disc for the Scottish based label was a self-titled collection. During her career, Craig has co-written with writers such as Tommy Boyce, Dean Dillon, Richard Dobson, Sandy Knox and, the late Shel Silverstein. Along with Mary Hopkin, Cathryn worked as a vocalist on Strawb Brian Willoughby's 1999 debut solo album "**Black & White.**" It led to Cathryn and Brian forming a partnership, and performing together in concert. Going back to her family roots, her third recording released in late 2001, and titled "**Pigg River Symphony**" comprised of old traditional songs interspersed with recollections from members of her family, principally her father, Judge John Grady Sowder.

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