

Nina Gerber – Bio

Nina Gerber was born circa 1960 and raised in Sebastopol, California, which is located around 40 miles North of San Francisco. In 1975 at the insistence of her brother Scott, and aged only 15, Nina witnessed the late Kate Wolf and her band The Wildwood Flower perform in a local pizza parlour. For the youngster it was a major epiphany and Nina soon resolved that her future lay in performing music with Wolf. Already a proficient guitar player, Gerber subsequently took mandolin lessons from Don Coffin, Kate's husband at the time. In the ensuing years Gerber would sit in with the band at Kate's shows, and in 1978 when The Wildwood Flower disbanded, Nina became Kate's full-time guitar player. Between 1978 and 1986, when, sadly, Kate passed away, Gerber worked on the albums **"Safe At Anchor"** [1979], **"Close To You"** [1981], **"Give Yourself To Love"** [1983] and **"Poet's Heart"** [1985]. Never a collaborator lyrically, it's appropriate that the music for Kate's touching "Friend Of Mine" from her 1981 album was penned by Nina, bass man Ford James and Wolf. In addition, the musical arrangements on the nineteen cut, *live* double album, **"Give Yourself To Love,"** are credited to Nina.

In the years following Kate's death Nina was associated with a series of posthumous album releases. The first, which she compiled and produced, was titled **"The Wind Blows Wild"** and appeared 1988. It consisted of previously unreleased studio recordings, concert performances and radio show appearances. The collection took its title from a song that Kate wrote for Wavy Gravy's fiftieth birthday, and proved to be the last song Wolf recorded. In 1989 a CD and 75 minute video of Kate's November 1985 appearance on **Austin City Limits** were released. Nina and Tom Diamant [co-owner of Kaleidoscope Records who issued Kate's albums] re-mixed the sound, since Kate's televised performance was only a thirty-minute segment on a bill shared with Roger McGuinn. **"Carry It On,"** a collection of Wolf originals [including two previously unreleased songs] along with covers taken from KPFA-FM Berkeley radio performances between 1978 and 1981, was compiled and produced by Nina, and appeared on the Flat Rock label in 1996. Red House Records issued the fourteen song various artists disc **"Treasures Left Behind : Remembering Kate Wolf"** in 1998. Produced by Nina, it featured Kate's songs performed by Greg Brown, Nanci Griffith, Dave Alvin, Eric Bogle [the antipodean Scot for whom Kate composed the song "Poet's Heart"] and others. Emmylou Harris' rendition of "Love Still Remains," from this collection, was subsequently nominated for a Grammy.

Sarah Elizabeth Campbell, a Texan, was based in Northern California for much of the eighties and performed in a series of bluegrass bands. In 1990 Gerber produced and played on Sarah's debut solo album **"A Little Tenderness."** Nina produced a consecutive trio of albums for Kristina Olson, during the period 1992 – 1995, commencing with Kristina's self-titled debut for Rounder Records. Folk veteran Rosalie Sorrels recently retired from the road. **"No Closing Chord,"** Sorrels tribute to the songs of the late Malvina Reynolds [1900 - 1978] was produced by Gerber, and released by Red House Records in 2000.

In the last decade and a half, Nina Gerber has performed and/or recorded with Jennifer Berezan, Bob Franke, Laurie Lewis, Queen Ida, Jerry Jeff Walker, Nanci Griffith, Ferron, Steve Seskin, Vicki Randle, Barbara Higbie, Greg Brown, Peter Yarrow, Rhiannon, Teresa Trull, Dianne Davidson, Betsy Rose, Carol McComb, Terry Garthwaite and many others. A rumour since the mid-nineteen nineties, Nina Gerber finally released her debut solo album **"Not Before Noon,"** the title being an *in joke* relating to musicians *low tolerance for early morning calls* [telephone or otherwise], in May 2001.

In 2003 on her Goatscape label Nina self-released **"Sweet Dreams"** and this collection of acoustic guitar instrumentals subtitled **"Lullabies For Guitar,"** was followed by **"Live"** which was subtitled **"Good Music With Good People."** The latter disc was recorded over the years 1999 - 2004 at the Kate Wolf Memorial Music Festival, and a few guitar instrumentals apart it featured vocal contributions from Jackson Browne, Eliza Gilkyson, Laurie Lewis, John Gorka and Greg Brown. Nina teamed up with Australian bred, and now American based country artist Audrey Auld Mezera and the 44 track, live double CD **"In The House"** was recorded during a sold-out show at Studio E, Sebastopol, California during December 2005.

Discography :

Solo - **"Not Before Noon"** [2001] : **"Sweet Dreams"** [2003] ; **"Live"** [2007] :
with Audrey Auld Mezera – **"In The House"** [2006] :

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