

## Lui Collins – Bio

Lui Collins was born in Barre, Vermont during 1950, and was raised there. Following high school she went on to study sociology and music at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. While attending university Collins began performing in local coffeehouses, and covered songs recorded by Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. By the mid-1970s, Lui was working in listening clubs in the New England area with another Vermont musician Horace Williams Jr. Midway through the decade Collins launched her career as a solo act.

Philo Records released Lui's solo debut "**Made In New England**," which included original compositions and covers by the Incredible String Band's Mike Heron and Robin Williamson. "**Baptism Of Fire**" her sophomore recording featured a similar mix of material to her debut, including covers of Greg Brown and Stan Rogers tunes. During 1982 Fast Folk Musical Magazine issue # SE107 featured Lui performing "The Enfolding" and the December 1984 issue # FF110 featured "Moondancer." Moving to the Green Linnet label, "**There's A Light**" [1985] was produced by the late Johnny Cunningham [ex-Silly Wizard]. The songs were mostly Collins originals, and included material written with children's book author Jane Yolen.

Collins gave up her life as a touring and recording musician from the mid eighties through the early nineties, and took time out to raise her three children. She resurfaced in 1993 with "**Moondancer**," subtitled "The Journey Of The Child Within," on her own label Molly Gamblin Music. While raising her children Lui had begun playing children's music concerts. "**North Of Mars**" [1995], subtitled "A Bunch Of Kids' Songs," included another song written with Yolen. The album was later awarded a Parents' Choice Honour. During 1992 Lui began working with the Connecticut based Grumbling Gryphons Children's Theater group. On the compilation "**The Songs Of Elmer Hawkes**" [1995] Collins performed five songs penned by this Cambridge, Massachusetts based songwriter.

During 1997 Collins settled in the Pioneer Valley in Western Massachusetts, and the same year released another collection of original material "**Stone By Stone**." After meeting singer/songwriter Dana Robinson the pair went on to release the limited edition albums "**Paired Down**" [1998] and "**Paired Down Vol. 2**" [1999]. Having previously supported her voice with guitar, in 1999 Lui purchased a clawhammer banjo and set about exploring the world of traditional folk music as evidence by the content of "**Leaving Fort Knox**" [2000]. Collins contributed voice and guitar to Robinson's solo recordings "**Midnight Salvage**" [1997] and "**The Trade**" [2000]. In 2001 Lui published "**Moon Of Ripe Berries : The Ashfield Poems**."

Collins' latest recording, "**Closer**," a collection of songs and poems, originals and covers, was released by Waterbug Records in the Spring of 2006.

### Discography :

Solo - "**Made In New England**" [1978] ; "**Baptism Of Fire**" [1981] ; "**There's A Light**" [1985] ; "**Moondancer**" [1993] ; "**North Of Mars**" [1995] ; "**Stone By Stone**" [1997] ; "**Leaving Fort Knox**" [2000] ; "**Closer**" [2006] :

with Dana Robinson - "**Paired Down**" [1998] ; "**Paired Down Vol. 2**" [1999] :

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