

*Australia's*

# *Seona McDowell*

She calls herself a “singer of songs”. She certainly is that! SEONA McDOWELL is also a teller of stories, an emissary of knowledge, a communicator and one of the most unusual and versatile entertainers to out of Cleveland (via Bombay, India, New Zealand and Australia) in many years.

Her colorful background is a press agent's dream and even if she couldn't sing a note, it's more than likely that she could stand on stage and charm an audience simply by carrying on a conversation in her delightful accent.

It was in Australia that she began her professional singing career that brought her recognition and success resulting in Australia's OZ Music Award for Best Female Folksinger in 1979 & 1980.

There is a rare quality both in Seona and her selection of music. Her enthusiasm for the varied cultures she has encountered rubs off on everyone around her. This is undoubtedly the reason she became so popular in schools with her music education programs for all learning institutions in Australia, New Zealand and now in America. Drawing on her own colorful and extensive travels and wide repertoire of traditional and contemporary songs from around the world with a large emphasis on Australian poetry, history and folk dancing. Seona brings the folklore and rich heritage of her music to children and adults alike.

Seona's impressive credits include touring and appearing in concert with Don McLean, Roy Orbison, Gerry Lee Lewis, the Mills Brothers and many other top recording artists. She has performed at the world famous “Wolf Trap” in Vienna, VA, played two years running in Nashville for the “International Fanfare Week” and appeared at the World's Fair in Knoxville, TN with other top Australian stars for Australia Week.

Besides appearing on numerous television shows in Australia, New Zealand and America, Seona has her own radio show, “WCPN-Live with Seona McDowell”, on Cleveland's new public radio station. The show ran for nearly two years during which she interviewed and had performing on her show many top America folk artists such as Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Sam Bush from “New Grass Revival”, the Skipper of the Australia II, winner of the America's Cup, John Bertram and others. In 1985 her show was awarded “Top Local Live Show” by the broadcasting commission of Ohio.

Residing in Florida, SEONA McDOWELL continues to enthrall audiences of all ages at outdoor festivals, theatre concerts, international events, schools and community events throughout the United States.



Booking Contact:

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# Programs

## *Adult & Family Concerts*

Seona McDowell is a perfect choice for all ages-family entertainment. Accompanying herself on guitar and autoharp, Seona draws on her Australian, Irish and English roots, enchanting audiences with songs and stories that are witty, reflective and entertaining. Seona's natural gift of blarney, her warm personality and delightful voice will have audiences singing and clapping along to traditional, contemporary and original tunes.

From the concert stage to her popular music education programs, Seona McDowell's enthusiasm for the varied cultures she encounters rubs off on everyone around her. Her concerts have all the elements that hold audiences spellbound: lively, informative, thought-provoking, humorous and interactive. Her audiences are treated to songs and stories that depict not only New Zealand and Australia but other far away cultures. Audiences come away from her concerts with a greater understanding and appreciation for fellow mankind.

\*\* Theme concerts (Irish or Australian) are also available.

## *Children's Concerts & Outreach Programs*

### **Australia, The Land Downunder**

This curriculum based program (History, Geography, Social Studies, Biology and Music Education) looks at the history, geography, cultural, animals, Australian natives and settlers through music, story and dance. There's lots of audience participation and fun... and it's a great learning experience.

### **Citizens of the World**

This lively program celebrates the similarities and differences of cultures and people around the world and teaches us through music and stories, how to be good world citizens, respecting each others cultures and our planet.

### **Celebrate the Season**

A multi-cultural program that looks at the winter holidays from November through February and how they are celebrated around the world.

### **Erin Go Braugh**

Irish songs and stories to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Seona McDowell also offers residency programs in Songwriting and Australian culture.

# *Past Presenters*

## Partial List

Lithopolis Arts Council (OH)  
Birmingham International Festival (AL)  
V.P. Fair (MO)  
Front Row Theatre (OH)  
Mountain Stage (WV)  
OH State Fair  
Memphis In May (TN)  
Irish American Club (OH)  
Knoxville World's Fair (TN)  
Houston International Festival (TX)  
Midifest International (OH)  
World Bank (D.C.)  
Cuyahoga County Fair (OH)  
Cleveland Museum of Art (OH)  
International Children's Festival (VA)  
Grape Jamboree (OH)  
Elgin Community College (IL)  
Blossom Music Center (OH)  
Chautaugua Institution (NY)  
City of Dublin (OH)  
Cincinnati Playhouse (OH)

Renaissance Center (OH)  
Bethlehem Musikfest (PA)  
Springfield Arts Council (OH)  
OH University  
Huron Irish Festival (OH)  
Akron Art Museum (OH)  
McLean Community Center (VA)  
Cleveland Metro Parks (OH)  
City of Gaithersburg (MD)  
Youngstown State Univ. Summer Fest (OH)  
Troy Hayner Cultural Center (OH)  
OH State Univ./Marion  
Lakeside Association (OH)  
Bellfontaine Concert Series (OH)  
Westerville Arts Festival (OH)  
Amani Festival (PA)  
Darke County Center for the Arts (OH)  
Fairfax Co. Arts Council (VA)  
Duplin Co. Arts Council (NC)  
Monmouth Independence Comm. Assoc. (OR)  
Lincoln Park Zoo (IL)

In addition to concert performances, Seona McDowell has brought educational outreach programs to schools in MI, NC, SC, IN, OH, NY, MA, PA, NC, GA, IL, KY, FL, VA, WV, MD and D.C.

## *Affiliations*

SC Arts Commission Artist In Schools  
KY Center for the Arts  
Centre East Showcase (IL)  
Howard Co. Arts Council (MD)  
United Arts Council of Wake Co. (NC)  
Greater Columbus Arts Council (OH)  
OH Arts Presenters Network  
Fairfax County Arts Council (VA)  
Bluemont Concert Assoc. (VA)  
Montgomery Co. PTA (MD)  
FL Arts Commission

# Quotes

“Outstanding...is the only way to describe your appearance at our Spouses’ Session and the poolside reception. We will be calling you back for more.”

*C.G. Scofield, Dir. of Marketing Conferences, Forging Industry Assoc.*

“People are still talking about you, your program, and the enjoyment they got from your program. Please come back.”

*Teresa Doherty, World Affairs Forum*

“The beauty and joy of your music truly helped to lift spirits and remind us, in a very special way, that we must work for a safe & healthy planet.”

*NE OH Earth Day Committee*

“You were everything I knew you would be, and all attending enjoyed the evening tremendously. I know they did, because they kept telling me all day...”

*George Armstrong, Reunion Chairman, U.S.S. Brooklyn Assoc. Historical Society*

“Seona, in my opinion, is one of the most talented and versatile performers Australia has ever produced. Seona has a charming , easygoing personality which wins admiration wherever she performs.”

*Ray Thomas, Exec. Dir, Central Highlands Regional Tourist Authority, Australia*

“It was truly a pleasure to have Seona McDowell perform at our Lunch and Lyric Program. She was a smash hit! Her style of music appealed to all and drew our largest crowd yet.”

*Lynn Haug, Kilcawley Ctr., Youngstown State Univ., OH*

“Seona is a consummate entertainer. Her program appeals to all ages. I am particularly impressed with Seona’s ability to involve the audience members in her stage performance. Finally, I can’t think of anyone who is easier to work than Seona McDowell.”

*Thomas Faessal, Assoc. Dir. Residence Life, The University of Akron, OH*

“Seona McDowell is a great addition to any program. She is comfortable working in many settings and involves her audience whether they be children or adults. Her songs are spirited, positive and set toes tapping and voices singing. We are happy to recommend her!”

*Virginia Ritan, Exec. Dir., Middest International*

“I especially want to extend my deep appreciation for a job well done. Your performance was enjoyed by all and your workshops were simply terrific... We have received praise for every aspect of your program. It was funny, serious, informative, imaginative and exciting all rolled into one package.”

*Anita Unger, Festival Coord., River Cities Cultural Council*