

Mp3 Sass! - Album One



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Original classic folk--witty, melodic and memorable; with vocals, guitars, dulcimer, banjo, bass, subtle percussion and a smile 13 MP3 Songs FOLK: Traditional Folk, FOLK: like Joni Details: SASS! began as a happy accident: in June 2004, veteran singer-songwriters Susan Urban and Sandy Andina found themselves booked into the same performance slot at a science fiction convention. Given the choice of splitting the slot into two smaller sets or sharing the stage for an hour, they serendipitously opted for the latter. They'd been throwing harmonies at each other from the audience for years anyway, and soon found their writing styles and voices both similar and complementary. Of course, it was their eerily similar senses of humor that cinched the deal: the words "sick puppy" have been applied to each of them individually at various times, a label in which they take perverse delight. The duo has performed all over the upper Midwest as well as in NC, VA, MD, TX and OH; they've done live on-air radio broadcasts; and they hope to add points west and even Canada to their collective resume, since they've already played these further horizons individually. Both Susan and Sandy have received solo and collective airplay on WFMT's "The Midnight Special," and on terrestrial, Internet and satellite radio worldwide. They've appeared together and solo at various folk festivals such as Hiawatha, Fox Valley, and Gebhard Woods, as well as coffeehouses, bookstores, concert series and science fiction conventions. Sandy honed her humor chops as an opener in Chicago's comedy clubs and has also done some comic acting on radio and even on vinyl (the cult classic "The Preppy Comedy Album"); she's been not only a folksinger but also a bassist and vocalist (lead and backing) for various Chicago rock bands for over 25 years. She released her debut solo CD, "Ghosts and Angels" on her own Essay label in 2001 after returning to the solo folk circuit and studying songwriting at the Old Town School of Folk Music with Ralph Covert (who also produced the CD), Michael ("The Dutchman") Smith and Steve Earle. Her songs also appear on

numerous compilations and have received airplay on public, college, commercial, internet and syndicated (including "Dr. Demento") radio worldwide; and is part of the cast of the Chicago Bar Ass'n.'s annual Christmas Spirits vaudeville revue. She's performed solo all over the Great Lakes states as well as KS, DC, VA, NC, CA, Nashville, Las Vegas, Montreal and even Puerto Vallarta. You might also have caught Sandy's performances on various suburban cable TV programs over two decades. She also performs occasionally with Madison, WI singer/cowboy comic/songwriter Stephen Lee Rich as "Andina Rich," whose debut CD, "Because We Can" is on Madison's Travenia label. (These latter two CDs are also available here at CDBaby.com). Sandy plays acoustic guitar and mountain dulcimer onstage with SASS! and adds electric bass in the studio; her arsenal also includes frailing banjo, electric rhythm guitar and autoharp; she has also been known to commit attempted harmonica onstage. Susan's experience parallels the history of Chicago's folk scene over the past twenty-plus years. She has performed all over the United States and Canada both solo and with various singing partners, most notably the groups Strong Voices and the currently seasonally popular Bittersweet Christmas Band (which has appeared on WFMT's prestigious "Folkstage" concert broadcast and the noted Hogeye Folk Arts concert series). An award-winning songwriter and "filker" at science fiction conventions, she is not only a veteran performer and spellbinding musical storyteller, but has decades of experience running folk music coffeehouses and cabarets (the legendary None of the Above monthly coffeehouse, at both Chicago's Second Unitarian Church and Bill's Blues in Evanston); and organizes, administers, hosts and performs in the annual Ravenswood Manor Park Summer Concert Series. Susan's solo releases include the CD album "Da Codependent Polka" and the followup "Old Blue Dodge;" the Bittersweets' CD "Dance in the Dark of the Year" (to which Susan contributed the title track) was named a CD of the Week by WFMT's Rich Warren. Susan's instrumental chops are showcased in Sass! on acoustic guitar, six-string banjo, kazoo and various percussion instruments; she also counts guitar-tuned mandolin and autoharp among her instrumental skills and is an expert cat herder (literally and sometimes figuratively). As if that weren't enough, Susan is also a circuit-riding Unitarian Universalist "wise woman" and in high demand as a guest service presenter.

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