

JAIYA BACKGROUND

Jaiya is the musical collaboration of three Mayne Island BC artists who share a deep connection with the land. The name Jaiya, meaning "a celebration of victory," in Sanskrit, and "bringing forth" in Hindi, is emblematic of both their philosophy and their stirring compositions. Their unique sound is a blend of Celtic harp, Rhodes electric piano, jazz accordion, guitar, whistle, drums and two female voices in harmony.

Jaiya's Music

Miranda Brown, Lael Whitehead and Kim Darwin bring together many talents in Jaiya, including strong backgrounds in Classical, Jazz, Celtic and Folk music. Their music is both sophisticated and accessible. Rich, complex arrangements support soulful, evocative melodies that appeal to music lovers of all stripes.

The Albums

Jaiya has produced two albums which are focused on powerful turning points in the earth's yearly cycle. *Firedance: Songs for Winter Solstice*, released in 2003, is both an exploration of the dark and a celebration of the return of the light. *Beltane: Songs for the Green Time*, a second release in 2005, refers to the Celtic word for May Day and celebrates the season of growth and renewal. The band is currently releasing their new CD, *Invocation: Songs for a New Earth*, an album of original chants and songs.

Airplay

Jaiya has received airplay throughout the US and Canada, in South America, the South Pacific, the United Kingdom and through Europe from France to Belarus. Programmers and listeners have been responding enthusiastically, calling Jaiya's music "superb, mystic, stirring and uplifting!"

Jaiya's Vision

Album themes reflect the idea that music, ritual and celebration can strengthen the bonds of community and promote healing and caring for each other and for the planet. Well-known environmental journalist Terry Glavin says, "There is something strangely stirring about this music, something hopeful and affirming. It's music from the hills, from far away and from home, all at the same time."

All three musicians draw inspiration from the rare wildness of their gulf island environment. They feel privileged to live and work in the peaceful and spectacularly beautiful setting of coastal British Columbia.