

## Heather Styka's latest release *Travel and Teacups*

### 1. Every Chord (5:01)

A song for songwriters; hypnotic.

### 2. Clementine (3:09)

This is not the trad. "Clementine."  
Emotive, memorable.

### 3. Sailors, Prophets, & (4:46)

About creative outlets—and patience.

### 4. Prairie Song (4:53)

2009 Winner of the Big Top Chautauqua Songwriting Contest. A mother encourages her daughter to leave the farm; an image-based narrative song.

### 5. Inspiration (3:33)

Quirky, enchanting, narrative.

### 6. Reykjavik (5:18)

The desire to travel; poetic images.

### 7. Wild Mountain Thyme (4:53)

A haunting, gentle rendition of the traditional Celtic song.

### 8. What We Have (4:46)

Carpe diem, a reflection on mortality.  
Pensive but upbeat.

### 9. The Ocean (2:55)

Catchy anthem with vivid images.

### 10. Lonely (2:50)

Poignant, universal ballad. A response to Eleanor Rigby.

### 11. Fortune Tellers (4:05)

Drifters, shape-shifters, and cassette tapes of Tom Waits.

### 12. Golden Light (3:00)

A chorus guaranteed to stick in your head.

### 13. The Sun Also Rises (4:24)

Not acoustic—Hemingway + Omnichord (an instrument somewhat like an electronic autoharp, circa 1984)

If you love the last song of film scores, if you drink tea while thinking of poems, stories, and travel, you'll love *Travel and Teacups*: Heather Styka's warm, breathy vibrato hovers over an atmosphere of guitar, cello, piano, harmonium, and accordion.



Heather Styka's latest release, *Travel and Teacups*, features descriptive lyrics with a compelling sense of poetry. Her warm, dulcet vocals and distinct guitar style hover over an atmosphere of cello, piano, harmonium, and accordion. The production is deliberately sparse; Styka set out to create a polished but minimal sound, retaining the fresh vibrancy of live performance.

*Travel and Teacups* was among the top plays on folk radio for July 2009, and was one of Rich Warren's top weekly picks on WFMT's "Midnight Special." Songs on this album differ from Styka's previous releases, *A Little More Time*, *Twelve Songs: July Sessions*, and the *Golden Light EP*. As a guitarist, Styka has started to delve into the worlds of alternate tunings and partial capos, creating more complex chords than before. Her voice has a slightly more developed and breathy vibrato, subtly reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald.

Styka's songwriting has been likened to that of Leonard Cohen, John Prine, Damien Rice, and Josh Ritter, but her influences are as diverse as they are rooted, ranging from Celtic to classical, Townes Van Zandt to Django Reinhardt. Also a poet published in a variety of respected journals, Styka appreciates a good story or a poetic image -- and it shows in lyrics that rely on metaphor, wordplay, and narrative. Styka's Midwestern background, urban identity, and rural roots are at the forefront of her songs. These are songs of "travel" and "teacups," but more specifically, they analyze the importance of places, relationships, family, imagination, and inspiration itself.

