

## Jeannie Gagné, Biography

A working vocalist, songwriter, composer, and conductor, Jeannie has recorded with contemporary classical giant Philip Glass, opened for Bare Naked Ladies, appeared on television with comedians/magicians Penn and Teller, sings on the soundtrack for the feature film "Anima Mundi" (1993), and toured internationally with artists such as reggae legend Frankie Paul. Her press coverage includes feature stories on PBS's All Things Considered and the CBS Evening News. Mother Molly Low says she began singing with the soundtrack of West Side Story before she learned to speak. Literally writing songs when she first discovered the piano keys, Jeannie has always known music is her calling.

Jeannie is now working together with her son Dylan Wolff on her newest project which features original songs about life's journey. Her second upbeat blues/rock album *Must Be Love* is playing on radio internationally. Her first album *Wide Open Heart* boasts some of the industry's finest musicians including drummer Shawn Pelton (Letterman, Saturday Night Live Band, Jon Bon Jovi), bassist Zev Katz (Donald Fagen, Judy Collins), guitarist Marc Shulman (Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega, Jennifer Kimball) and Everett Bradley (headliner in Broadway's Swing, Billy Joel).

Jeannie and life partner Mark Stallings are building a new genre. If you were at the UUMN conference in Portland, OR, you heard about it. There is a lot of buzz around this idea – awesome contemporary spiritual music that isn't defined by a specific faith. They are also building a new philanthropic musical organization they call Soundation.org.

An associate professor of voice at Boston's Berklee College of Music, Jeannie's expertise combines voice production with a holistic approach involving full-body awareness to uncover personal expression and power. Her vocal knowledge spans a wide range of styles and techniques, including jazz, blues, pop/rock, and classical. With a Masters from *Lesley University* in Voice and Wellness, and a Reiki Master (the Japanese art of energy healing), Jeannie is writing her first book for vocalists about healthy and effective vocal performance.

Jeannie has been an active UU musician 1995 when UUFSD member, Jeannie's mother (and former Music Director at UUFSD) encouraged her to join UUMN. Appointed by UU President Bill Sinkford, Jeannie is a co-creator of *Singing the Journey*, the new UUA hymnal supplement, which also contains seven of her compositions and arrangements. A former board member and active clinician with the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Musician's Network, Jeannie creates music that is nurturing and inspiring. She led much of the music at General Assembly in '05, including the choir and Sunday worship. Jeannie served as Music Director at the UU Society in Middleboro, Massachusetts for 13 years. She travels around the country frequently, offering music and movement workshops together with soul-jazz concerts.