

Rita Hosking and Sean Feder

performers/teachers

Rita Hosking, whose songs are called “fragile as a newborn baby and defiant as a West Virginia coal miner,” (*Fiddlefreak Folk Review*) writes, sings and plays in the folk, country-folk, Americana and bluegrass genres. She’s created and published 6 CD’s that have received critical acclaim: “Heartfelt country soul set from someone who's quietly become one of the best,” (*Maverick Magazine*), “Best Country Album 2010” from the Independent Music Awards, and the UK’s *Observer* included Rita’s 2011 CD, *Burn*, as one of their “Hidden Gems of 2011.” Her most recent release, *Little Boat*, was characterized by *No Depression* as “authentic American folk-music to stir the soul” and one of the “Top 10 Country Albums of the 2013” by the UK *Telegraph*. She and her husband, Sean Feder on dobro and banjo, began touring her songs in 2005 and continue to traverse the country and globe, from the Strawberry Music Festival to Bob Harris’ BBC program in London.

Before pursuing music full time, Rita taught U.S. History and English at the junior high and high school levels in Northern California for over 12 years, and assisted husband Sean in teaching hand drum classes and facilitating percussion circles. Rita’s love of teaching carries over into her concerts—stories weave through and introduce her songs, and she is known as “a captivating performer,” (*R2 Magazine*.) She has taught songwriting at the Camp Caldera Songwriting Academy in Oregon, several U.S. music festivals, in private session, and she and her band have led jamming workshops at the Live Oak Music Festival. Songwriting accolades include winner of the Dave Carter Memorial Songwriting Contest (Sisters Folk Festival,) finalist in the Telluride Bluegrass Festival's Troubadour competition, and awards in the International Songwriting Competition and West Coast Songwriter's Association.

Rita’s teaching strengths lie in the following areas: general songwriting, thematic and lyrical development, song arrangement, story-based songwriting, stagecraft, band arrangement, intro to the music business, steps to making an album, and more. Her website and media-tools are at <http://www.ritahosking.com> .

Sean Feder is a skilled multi-instrumentalist and experienced teacher. His performance experience has been eclectic with a strong penchant towards everything rooted in rhythm. His music career has been highlighted by live performance and recording session collaborations with several notable rhythmic and melodic masters, such as Arthur Hull (Village Music Circles), Hershel Yatovitz (of Chris Isaak), and Joe Craven. Sean taught hand-drumming and percussion in group and private classes for 10 years, and presently offers beginning and intermediate banjo and dobro instruction. He is also an experienced guitar and bass player (upright or electric,) and is well versed in band rhythm, band arrangement, singer/songwriter accompaniment and group jamming. He contributes string, vocal, and percussion accompaniment Rita’s to recordings and shows, and continues to be a generous resource for the Northern California music community.