

*500 Miles* is a tribute to the songwriters of all the beautiful, melodic folk songs Jo Anne has had the privilege to perform since she was a teenager. Only with hindsight did Jo Anne begin to understand the profound impact this music has had on her life and the way it helped shape her view of the world. She considers it a blessing to have come of age in the 1960s and '70s, in the midst of a remarkable musical renaissance.

At fifteen, Jo Anne taught herself to play the guitar, learning just about every song recorded by Peter, Paul, and Mary, her greatest musical influence. Her title track selection, "500 Miles," pays homage to these three brilliant artists whose passionate music gave her the inspiration to become a fellow troubadour, thus beginning her life as a professional musician.

The wonderful guitarists who accompany Jo Anne on *500 Miles* are Don Raymond (the lead guitar player for Jan & Dean and the Beach Boys), Howard Yearwood (check out Howard on MySpace.com), and Paul Nielsen (paulnielsenmusic.com). They are not only lifelong friends of Jo Anne's, but she has journeyed many magical musical miles with each one. She is thrilled to present their world-class talents on this album.

As Jo Anne pondered the choices for this CD, the songs seemed to choose themselves, each one a dear old friend getting sweeter with time. They include the Joe and Eddie classic "Muddy Old River," the first song Jo Anne learned to perform on the guitar, as well as the offerings of John Denver, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Ian Tyson, Kris Kristofferson, Anne Murray, Leonard Cohen, Judy Collins, Robbie Robertson, Mike Settle, Shel Silverstein, Gene MacLellan, Hedy West, and of course Peter, Paul, and Mary. She hopes their songs speak to you as they continue to speak to her.