



CHRIS THOMPSON

biography

Chris Thompson is the guitar and lead vocalist for the duo Chris and Meredith Thompson. Together the Thompsons have released 6 albums and played festivals such as the Clearwater Hudson Revival, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and the Boston Folk Festival. The Thompsons are best known for their close sibling harmony, and as Chris now steps out on her own, she demonstrates her powerful clear vocals and percussive, riff driven guitar work.

Chris started singing at an open mic at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse. At Stone Soup, Chris heard Bill Harley, Joan Katzberg, and other folk/acoustic artists. Stone Soup opened new musical ideas, and Chris encouraged her sister Meredith to join her. They formed a duo and had their first show at Stone Soup in 1992. After graduating from college, the duo toured the US, and Chris spent several years singing solo in Boston's subways and at clubs such as the Kendall Cafe and Club Passim.

On their most recent album, the Thompsons returned to the traditional spirituals they learned at Stone Soup. Chris offers soulful lead vocals on these spirituals like "Hand on the Plow", "Wayfaring Stranger", and "Balm in Gilead." Chris' original songs on the album demonstrate a spiritual influence of redemption and hope. "Hallelujah" evokes a spiritual theme whose message indicates that people light the way for others. "Lift Up Your voice and Sing" echoes the traditional call and response structure of many spirituals.

The Thompsons evoke meaningful metaphors to convey messages through song. Upbeat "Lines of Longitude" expresses awe and ancient map makers who could sketch the coastline without a birds eye view. The song extends the metaphor to the challenges we face as we map out our own lives. Folky "Man in the Mountain" likens the falling of New Hampshire's famous landmark to the decline of our own parents as they age with the refrain "never thought I'd see that mountain fall."
