

# Jay Ungar & Molly Mason

## *the heart and soul of American roots music*



Jay Ungar & Molly Mason achieved international acclaim when their performance of Jay's composition, *Ashokan Farewell*, became the musical hallmark of Ken Burns' *The Civil War* on PBS. The soundtrack won a Grammy and *Ashokan Farewell* was nominated for an Emmy. The piece was originally inspired by Jay & Molly's *Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps* in New York's Catskill Mountains, which are still going strong today.

Jay and Molly are musicians of enormous talent who draw their repertoire and inspiration from a wide range of American musical styles—19th-century classics, lively Appalachian,

Cajun, and Celtic fiddle tunes, and favorites from the golden age of country and swing—along with their own songs, fiddle tunes, and orchestral compositions.

In recent years, Jay and Molly have reached an ever widening audience through their appearances on *Great Performances*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, their own public radio specials, and through their work on film soundtracks such as *Brother's Keeper*, *Legends of the Fall*, and a host of Ken Burns' PBS documentaries. They've had the honor of performing at the White House for two sitting Presidents and continue to tour extensively delighting audiences across the country.

They can present a variety of themed concerts, including *Fiddler's Holiday* (a musical travelogue featuring an amazing array of fiddle music from many traditions), *Ashokan Farewell: The Civil War and Beyond* (a two-part concert featuring songs and traditional fiddle tunes popular long before the advent of records and radios), and *Tenting Tonight: Music of the Civil War* (a concert of lively dance tunes, sentimental ballads, and rousing marches heard in homes and front-line encampments during America's Civil War), and many symphony programs.

(continued on reverse)

### Workshops, Master Classes, and Residency Activities

Jay and Molly are equally famous for their *Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps* held near Woodstock, NY every summer. Their near-encyclopedic knowledge of American folk music and dance makes them suitable for all sorts of residency activities. These include:

- Education programs for teachers, including music making and American cultural history as reflected in music (such as Cajun culture or the Civil War).

(continued on reverse)

**Mike  
Green**  
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*reinventing  
traditional music*

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### (workshops continued)

- Civil War and Beyond: an examination of the music of the Civil War as well as an exploration of the development of American popular song beginning with Stephen Foster and extending through Western Swing.
- Workshops on the techniques to play some of Jay and Molly's most requested songs on fiddle, guitar, and piano
- Activities in non-traditional venues
- Playing for contra dances and square dances

For schools, Jay and Molly can present both educational performances and bus-in performances in conjunction with evening concerts at performing arts centers.

### Performance formats:

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason (duo)

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Band (four, five, or six-piece)

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Family Band (four-piece, also featuring Ruth Ungar Merenda and Michael Merenda of The Mammals)

### (bio continued)

*"On stage, Mason and Ungar complement each other like a finely crafted fiddle and bow. Together they weave a rich postmodern musical magic carpet on which listeners may vicariously glide back in time and experience first-hand the sonorous riches of traditional music."*

— Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

*"Jay Ungar and Molly Mason play music from the heart which reminds us of the best in all of us."*

— Ken Burns, producer of PBS' The Civil War

*"Jay and Molly make music that is simple and overwhelming . . . joyful and full of feeling . . . an apotheosis of American traditional music."*

— Garrison Keillor, host and creator of A Prairie Home Companion

*"As composers, virtuosi and folklorists, this duo light up the concert stage and are a sure-fire hit for all music loving audiences."*

— David Amram, noted American composer, folk singer, and jazz musician



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