

Deidre McCalla sings of the politics and passions that fuel our lives.

A Black woman, mother, lesbian, feminist, **Deidre** has long stood at the forefront of acoustic singer-songwriters reshaping expectations of how Black folk do folk. She learned early on that life begins with an acoustic guitar, and **Deidre's** songwriting carries an unyieldingly honest perspective expressed with a lyric touch that relentlessly celebrates the power and diversity of the human spirit. As a performer **Deidre McCalla** doesn't merely take the stage - she owns it.

Affectionately dubbed a "dreadlocked troubadour" by the **Miami New Times**, **Deidre McCalla** blends folk, rock, country, and pop into a expression entirely her own.

In 1975, **Deidre McCalla** strode off the graduation dais at **Vassar College** straight onto the main stage of the **2nd National Women's Music Festival** in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. **Deidre** has held a steady presence in women's music and folk circles ever since, sharing stages with **Joe Jencks**, **Suzanne Vega**, **Tracy Chapman**, **Holly Near**, **Odetta**, **Cris Williamson**, and **Sweet Honey in the Rock**, and touching audiences from Maui to Maine — church basements and college coffeehouses to **Carnegie Hall**.

Deidre McCalla spent 11 years recording with **Olivia Records**. Her first **Olivia** album, ***Don't Doubt It***, is held in the **Smithsonian's LGBT Collection** at the **National Museum of American History** in Washington, D.C., and was named one of **Ms. Magazine's 25 Classic Women's Music Albums**. In 2021 **Deidre** received a **SERFA Award** from the **Southeast Regional Folk Alliance** for **Distinguished Service and Exceptional Contributions to Folk Music** in the Southeast region of Folk Alliance International and in 2023 the **National Women's Music Festival (NWMF)** presented **Deidre McCalla** with the **Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music**.

Deidre McCalla's most recent album, ***Endless Grace***, debuted at **#1** on the June 2022 **FAI Folk Radio Chart** and was named one of the **10 Best Folk Albums of 2022** by **PopMatters**, **Rhythms Magazine**, and the **Folk Alley Listener Favorites Poll**. In 2023 her song *Shoulder to the Wheel* won the **19th Annual International Acoustic Music Award for Best Folk/Americana/Roots Song** — making **Deidre McCalla** the first woman to win that category in **IAMA** history.

Sing Out! calls **Deidre McCalla** "*one of our generation's most important singer-songwriters*" and the **Austin American-Statesman** describes **Deidre McCalla** as a "*distinctive voice in a crowded field of contemporary folk music.*"

Currently living in the San Francisco Bay Area, Deidre McCalla had her very first album release, *Fur Coats and Blue Jeans*, on Roulette Records when she was 19. In addition to her Theater Arts B.A. from Vassar, Deidre studied jazz guitar at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee.

Deidre McCalla has taught Performance at Warren Wilson College's Swannanoa Gathering, and Songwriting at Common Ground on the Hill. Deidre's work has been published in *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, *The Original Coming Out Stories*, and *Chrysalis: A Feminist Quarterly*, and she is featured in *The Power of Words: A Transformative Language Arts Reader*. Deidre is a proud member of AFM Local 1000 and the North American Folk Alliance.