



Oregon Bluegrass Association
www.oregonbluegrass.org

Bluegrass Express

The Best Seat in the House

Arlene Winterschless prides a lifetime love for acoustic music

By Linda Gartin and Arlene Winterschless

Arlene Winterschless has made her mark on the Portland music scene by creating an exciting career for bluegrass and other acoustic musicians in her Southwest Portland living room. With over 200 shows under her belt, Arlene knows acoustic are well-loved, and a hot ticket among fans of acoustic music and the bluegrass, old-time, and other acoustic musicians who enjoy performing in an intimate setting in intimate venues. With concert streaming now also available to fans across the state -- on across the ocean, via Concert Initiative Concerts (www.concertinitiative.com), Arlene continues to expand musicians making a living with their craft and to make the concert experience accessible to more people.

Arlene recently had three between concert booking and performing dates to answer a few questions about the woman behind the wildly successful concert artist and the music concert experience.

Where did you grow up?

I mostly grew up in the beautiful Barbara area, although lived for short periods in Hawaii and Nevada as a child. A large part of my early childhood was spent living up in the

mountains above Carpinteria, California. We spent several years there living in a trailer alongside the construction site where my parents were building their

home that afforded great views of the coast with our dogs, get pictures with them, fight, play music, read, and develop our imagination.

How did you end up in Port-land?

My husband David and I were looking for a place -- that we liked and could afford -- to settle and raise a family. We married in 1997 and were living in a San Francisco walk-up with a roommate. Even at the time, we knew we could not afford to buy a place there, although we tried it, so we quit our jobs and hit the road for a year, working for a place to settle down. We traveled to Mexico, all around the US, and Europe (mostly France). Our last stop was Portland, where we found a couple. That first night, we could not sleep, so we had the English Theater, and had pizza and a beer. It was heaven!

How do you always have interesting events?

Ever since I had the opportunity to play an instrument in 4th grade and knew from my father's love to play, I was immediately drawn to playing. I also found the instrument itself to be extremely beautiful -- the detailed sil-



Arlene Winterschless is the author of *Express* for *Bluegrass Express* and the art credit goes to Linda Gartin for the *Bluegrass Express* cover.

lence from its beautiful acoustics. Arlene. The isolation of the location, limitations on TV, and the open-ended

Continued on Page 7