

# small potatoes

***"These folks are wonderful; fun, energetic, and great musicians.  
They're two of my favorite performers."***

Bill Staines, Singer/songwriter

***"Behind the humble name hides a creative couple of singer-songwriters who know a thing or two  
about keeping a crowd laughing, smiling, and occasionally crying."***

Bill Lynch, Charleston Gazette, Charleston, WV

## **22 Years, and a Million and a Half Miles...**



Twenty-two years ago, Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, the Chicago-area duo known as Small Potatoes, decided to hit the road. "In one year, we quit our jobs, bought a house, bought a car, and became full-time folk singers—not exactly the greatest combination, financially speaking, or what most people would call a sound business model. We didn't throw darts at a map, but we might as well have."

They might not have had the best plan, but what they did have were great songs and musicianship, and the ability to put on a show. Twenty-two years, more than a million miles, 3000 shows, and five Dodge Caravans later, they are listed as a "favorite act" by many coffeehouses, clubs and house concerts across the U.S. They have made repeat appearances at major folk festivals, including the **Kerrville Folk Festival**, the **Walnut Valley Folk Festival**, and **Philadelphia Folk Festival**.

From the start, they've called themselves eclectic-maniacs and described their music as "Celtic to Cowboy". They say it has taken them "years of careful indecision" to come up with a mix of music that ranges from country, blues, and swing to Irish, with songwriting that touches on all of those styles and more. Their four recordings, ***"Alive!"***, ***"Waltz of the Wallflowers"***, ***"Time Flies"*** and ***"Raw"*** demonstrate that "indecision" can be wonderfully entertaining. They both sing, they both play guitars and an array of other instruments. They even yodel.



***"Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso combine cleverly witty with powerfully poignant songs, along with well chosen covers to present an unusually entertaining and involving repertoire engagingly delivered. Prezioso's song "1000 Candles, 1000 Cranes" is one of the most outstanding songs of the past 50 years."***

Rich Warren, The Midnight Special - WFMT Radio, Chicago, IL

***"SPUDS rule!"***

Meredith Carson, Swallow Hill Music Assoc., Denver, CO



## **“Make ‘em Laugh, Make ‘em Cry, Make ‘em Think”**

When you see Small Potatoes perform, you hear two great voices, some fine guitar playing, and a touch of tin whistle, flute, mandolin, bodhran, and other percussion toys. Together they present a truly rare blend of vocal and instrumental abilities, award-winning songwriting, and arranging talents. They have the unique ability to adapt to the style of music they happen to be playing, and they also pay attention to the little things, the warmth, the humor and a rapport with the audience that makes for a memorable performance.

## **Selected Appearances**

Philadelphia Folk Festival, Schwenksville, PA  
 Walnut Valley Folk Festival, Winfield, KS  
 Summerfolk, Owen Sound, ON  
 Kerrville Folk Festival, Kerrville, TX  
 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Hillside, NY  
 Musikfest, Bethlehem, PA Gamble Rogers Folk Festival, FL  
 South Florida Folk Festival, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
 Kuumbwa Jazz Center, Santa Cruz, CA The Fret House, Covina CA  
 Swallow Hill Music Assoc., Denver, CO  
 Old Town School of Folk, Chicago, IL  
 FitzGerald's, Berwyn, IL The Ark, Ann Arbor, MI  
 The Ten Pound Fiddle, E. Lansing, MI  
 Fiddle and Bow, Winston-Salem, NC Club Passim, Cambridge, MA  
 The Nickelodeon Folk Club, Calgary, Alberta  
 Godfrey Daniel's, Bethlehem, PA The Bluebird Cafe, Nashville, TN  
 Uncle Calvin's, Dallas, TX Rouse House Concerts, Austin, TX  
 Seattle Folklore Society, Seattle, WA



## **Some People We've Opened for or Shared Stages with:**

Tom Paxton, Greg Brown, John McCutcheon, Utah Phillips, Cheryl Wheeler, Robin & Linda Williams, David Wilcox, Bryan Bowers, Peter Rowan, Kate & Anna McGarrigle, Bill Staines, Trout Fishing in America, Austin Lounge Lizards, Susan Werner, The Bobs, Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen, James Keelaghan, Cliff Eberhardt, John Stewart

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***“There aren’t many groups, folk or otherwise, with a broader range than these tater tots, but Small Potatoes can turn heads with more than just it’s range. The duo brings an impressive mastery of detail to each genre...Small Potatoes is obviously steeped in the tradition of the entire folk spectrum.”***

Rick Reger, Chicago Tribune