



Humor & Heart (Mark Iler and Jess McKeegan) performs everything from old Pop and Rock songs and Folk classics to Celtic tunes and songs and Sea Shanties, always with passion and often with a humorous twist. Best known for their fun, good-time party music, they make a party wherever they go. Mark and Jess have been performing as Humor & Heart in Washington since 2004.

Mark Iler

Mark Iler is a gifted singer/songwriter, performer and MC. Originally from Detroit, Mark has lived in the Puget Sound area since 1988.

Mark performs throughout the Pacific Northwest as a solo singer/songwriter, accompanying his wry acoustic folk rock/popular/humor ballads on guitar, tenor guitar, and harmonica - as well as in Humor & Heart with Jess playing 60's and 70's pop/rock and Celtic. Mark and Jess also play in a Celtic trio, 3 Fifths, with Monica Barber.

Mark is in demand as a studio session player and live concert sideman, frequently appearing with Hank Cramer, The Kevin Jones Band, and a variety of solo artists. Mark generously shares his time as MC and sound volunteer for the Victory Music musicians' co-op, hosting "open mics" and song circles throughout the Puget Sound area for over 20 years. He currently hosts an open mic at the Arbutus Folk School in Olympia.

Mark has recorded 11 CDs with Hank Cramer and they are now collaborating on their 12th project. The work has earned critical acclaim. Heartland Public Radio named their version of "My Sweet Wyoming Home" the #5 Cowboy Song of 2007. Texas Public Radio's "Random Routes" chose two of their songs - "Della and The Dealer" and "Two of A Kind" - for their Top Twenty of 2007. The Western Music Association nominated Hank's "Way Out West" CD as the best Traditional Album of 2007.

Mark holds a degree in sound recording, and owns and operates a professional audio services company, Grey Hawk Productions.



Jess McKeegan

In her musical life, she is known as Jess McKeegan, a singing musician who also plays the Irish Whistle, Guitar and Mandolin. Jess enjoys singing some of the more "Bawdy" pub type songs as well as the sad beautiful laments of Ireland.

As a Celtic session player, Jess excels at playing the Irish Whistle (also known as the Pennywhistle or Tin Whistle) and singing sea shanties, ballads, and bawdy songs (her favorite).

In her youth in the Philadelphia area, Jess started out playing guitar and singing at local coffee houses then spent a few years singing and playing flute in funk and disco bands. She studied flute and music theory at the Bryn Mawr Conservatory of Music. Her love of traditional music and acoustic instruments pulled her back to her Irish roots 20 years ago. Since then she's been a regular at Irish sessions in the Olympia area. Jess performed with the humorous nautical band Budd Bay Buccaneers for 7 years and more recently with the high-energy Celtic band Loch Dhu. She has performed with Hank Cramer since 2003 and appears on several of Hank's CDs.

These days, Jess and her partner, MarK Iler, perform in a Celtic trio with Monica Barber known as 3 Fifths. Their duo Humor & Heart performs everything from old Pop and Rock songs and Folk classics to Celtic and Sea Shanties.

In her professional life, Jess is known as Jessica Jensen and is the owner and Senior Attorney of Jessica Jensen Law, a full service civil law firm with an emphasis on holistic and collaborative law in Olympia.



Julie Bennett - Drums & Percussion

Julie started playing Drums in grade school. She continued on to Concert Band and played through high school and spent many years playing Drum kit in Rock and Folk bands.

In 1990 she found Celtic music and went on to learn the Irish Drum (Bodhran) and other forms of Hand Percussion, finding ways of incorporating Percussion into the various styles of Celtic music.

Julie is now very busy with a number of bands that focus on Contra Dances (Contra Quartet and The Olympia Volunteer String Band), Quebecois (Les Gens du Chutes), Irish (Curlew's Call), Klezmer (Zeyde Grove), and Rock (Humor & Heart) . Her vast experience has lead her to playing Percussion on various CD recordings. She also happily plays with local brass street band, Artesian Rumble Arkestra and has had the privilege to play Percussion with the Olympia Flute Choir at the Capitol Rotunda.