

HOLLY NEAR

MUSIC & ACTIVISM

SINGER ♦ SONGWRITER ♦ SOCIAL ACTIVIST

a celebration of the human spirit

Holly Near has been singing for a more equitable world for well over 40 creative years. She is an insightful story teller through her music, committed to keeping the work rooted in contemporary activism.

Respected around the world for her music and activism, Holly released her 31st album in 2018.

One of the most powerful, consistent, and outspoken singers of our time, her concerts elevate spirits and inspire activism. A skilled performer, Holly is an outspoken ambassador for peace who brings to the stage a unique integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery, and theatricality.

Holly's joy and passion continue to inspire people to join in her celebration of the human spirit. Equally compelling at her shows and through recordings, Holly's music fully engages listeners in the world around them —speaking to anyone who believes in peace, justice, and feminism; a wonderful spectrum of humanity.

Born in Ukiah, CA in 1949, Holly began singing in high school, including work with a local folk group. She built on her performing career with acting parts on seminal '70s television shows like *Mod Squad*, *Room 222*, and *The Partridge Family*. In 1970 she was a cast member of the Broadway musical *Hair*. Following the Kent State University shootings in May of that same year the entire cast staged a silent vigil in protest. The song, "It Could've Been Me" (which was released on *A Live Album*, 1974) was Holly's heartfelt response to the shootings. In 1971, she joined the Free The Army tour, an anti-Vietnam War road show of music, comedy, and plays organized by antiwar activist Fred Gardner and actors Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland.

In 1972, Holly was one of the first women to create an independent record company, paving the way for women like Ani DiFranco and others. Her goal was to promote and produce music by politically conscious artists from around the world, a mission that Redwood Records fulfilled for nearly 20 years. Often cited as one of the founders of the Women's Music movement, Holly not only led the way for outspoken women in the music world, but also worked for peace and multicultural consciousness. Throughout her long career Holly has worked with a wide array of musicians including Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Arlo Guthrie, Mercedes Sosa, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, Joan Baez, Phil Ochs, Harry Belafonte, and many others.

Holly Near has been recognized many times for her work for social change, including honors from the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Organization for Women, and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Holly was also named *Ms. Magazine Woman of the Year* and received the *Legends of Women's Music Award*. During her travels in the Pacific with the Free The Army show, Holly became a globally conscious feminist, linking international feminism and anti-war activism. She was an active participant and coalition builder in what she refers to as the "heady days" of 1970s activism, when so many movements were gestating and jostling one another.

Another significant arena of Holly's activism is the LGBTQ community. Her interest was both personal and political. She was one of the first celebrities to discuss her sexual orientation during a pioneering 1976 interview with *People* magazine. A staunch advocate for LGBTQ rights. Holly is comfortable with her own sexuality and has a clear understanding of the fluidity of sexual orientation.

Holly is also a teacher, presenting master classes in performance craft and songwriting to diverse audiences. Building on this role, her historic papers are housed at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library and are regarded as an informed look at the last 40 years of social change movements.

She has also become a spokesperson within the social change music movement. During her time on the road, luminaries in the folk world have noted how her presence sets the tone for each event she joins. As Holly has observed, "Music can influence choices for better or for worse. A lullaby can put a troubled child to sleep, but Muzak can put a whole nation to sleep. A marching band can send our children off to war. It can also have everyone laughing, dancing, and loving as the lead off to a gay pride parade".

Holly finds herself in a role that her amazing journey has uniquely prepared her to fill as the significance of her work over time has crystallized her iconic status. At once flattered, amazed, and centered, she graciously assumes the honoring that comes with time, proud to represent—through her voice and her music—the movements that are so fundamental to her spirit.

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RECORDINGS

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CURRENT CATALOG

2018
Holly Near
Calico Tracks Music, 2018

PEACE BECOMES YOU
Holly Near
Calico Tracks Music, 2012

WE CAME TO SING!
Holly Near with emma's revolution
Calico Tracks Music, 2009

SING TO ME THE DREAM
Calico Tracks Music, 2007

SHOW UP
Calico Tracks Music, 2006

CRIS & HOLLY
with Cris Williamson
H&C Records, 2003

LIFELINE EXTENDED
Appleseed Recordings, 2002

CRUSHED!: THE LOVE SONG COLLECTION
Calico Tracks Music, 2002

AND STILL WE SING: THE OUTSPOKEN COLLECTION
Calico Tracks Music, 2002

HARP: A TIME TO SING
Appleseed Recordings, 2001

EARLY WARNINGS
Selections from Sky Dances and Watch Out!
Appleseed Recordings, 2002

EDGE
Calico Tracks Music, 2000
SIMPLY LOVE: THE WOMEN'S MUSIC COLLECTION
Calico Tracks Music, 2000

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS
from the play Fire In The Rain
Calico Tracks Music 2000

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART
with pianist John Bucchino
Calico Tracks Music, 1997

THIS TRAIN STILL RUNS
with Ronnie Gilbert
Abbe Alice Music, 1996

HISTORIC CATALOG

SKY DANCES
Redwood Records, 1989

DON'T HOLD BACK
Redwood Records, 1987

SINGING WITH YOU
with Ronnie Gilbert
Redwood Records, 1987

WATCH OUT!
with John McCutcheon and Trapezoid
Redwood Records, 1984

JOURNEYS – A Retrospective, 1972-1983
Redwood Records, 1983

SPEED OF LIGHT
Redwood Records, 1982

FIRE IN THE RAIN
Redwood Records, 1981

IMAGINE MY SURPRISE
with Meg Christian
Redwood Records, 1978

YOU CAN KNOW ALL I AM
Redwood Records, 1976

A LIVE ALBUM
Redwood Records, 1975

HANG IN THERE
Redwood Records, 1973

HOLLY NEAR

HONORS & AWARDS

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- 2017 Inducted into the Living Peace Wall, Sebastopol, CA
- 2016 Tikkun Award for Contribution to the Healing and Transformation of the World
- 2008 Impact Fund, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Key to the City of Chico, CA
- 2005 One of 1000 Peace Women Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize
- 2005 City Council of Oakland, CA: Congratulating Holly for nomination as one of the “1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize”
- 2004 Gandhi/King Season for Non Violence, Santa Rosa, CA
- 2002 Women of Voice and Vision, Scripps College, Celebrating 75th Anniversary
- 2001 Jeannie C. Rae Culture Award for the Advancement of Women’s Culture, Women in the Arts, Inc., State of Indiana
- 2000 The Legends of Women’s Music Award, Lesbians of Achievement, Vision and Action
- 1999 Ukiah High School Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate of the Class of 1967, Ukiah, CA
- 1997 NARAS Governor’s Award to Redwood Records ...*“For outstanding contributions to the cultural fabric of our community. Your vision and struggle to create a better world has enriched all our lives.”*
- 1996 GALA Legacy Award in recognition for contributions to the North American LGBT Choral Movement
- 1995 Bread and Roses Honored Redwood Records and Redwood Cultural Work for Innovative Nonprofit work and to Holly Near for her *“lifetime dedication to humanitarianism through the performing arts.”*
- 1994 Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) Humanitarian Award
- 1994 ACLU of Southern California, Freedom of Information Award *“...by honoring Holly Near for the tremendous contribution you have shown toward fighting for equality and justice for others.”*
- 1993 Bay Area Theater Critics Circle, Outstanding Achievement Award, for “Fire in the Rain, Singer in the Storm”, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 Unity Award, The National Conference, Fairfield Region
- 1991 National Association of Independent Record Distributors and (NAIRD) Indie Award — Honorable Mention to Redwood Records for “Musical Highlights” from the play “Fire in the Rain, Singer in the Storm”
- 1991 HOTWIRE, Reader’s Choice Award for outstanding contributions to Women’s Music and Culture
- 1989 World College West, Honorary Doctor of Human Letters
- 1989 July 7 declared Holly Near Day by Art Agnos, Mayor of San Francisco, CA
- 1989 Indie Award in the category of Women’s Music for “Sky Dances”
- 1988 Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Peace and Freedom Award
- 1988 Cable Car Award: Outstanding Achievement by a recording artist for “Don’t Hold Back”
- 1987 Southern California Women for Understanding, Lesbian Rights Award, Pioneer in Women’s Music
- 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Award of Distinction
- 1987 California Senate Lesbian Rights Award
- 1987 6th Annual San Francisco Women’s Building Awards, Vesta Award
- 1986 National Association of Independent Record Distributors and Manufacturers Indie Award for “HARP” First Place
- 1986 City and County of San Francisco, CA, Certificate of Honor
- 1986 The Women’s Foundation “Woman of Note” for Outstanding Achievements in Music, San Francisco, CA
- 1985 Ms. Magazine Woman of the Year
- 1985 Biko-Rodney-Malcolm Coalition Award for Holly’s principled stand against racism.
- 1984 Cable Car Award: Outstanding Achievement by a Recording Artist for “Journeys”, San Francisco, CA
- 1984 Key to the City of Fresno, CA

- 1984 Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) Humanitarian Award, Los Angeles, CA
- 1984 National Association of Independent Record Distributors and (NAIRD) Indie Award for “Lifeline”,
- 1983 City and Country of San Francisco, CA, Certificate of Honor
- 1983 Detroit City Council Testimonial Resolution Honoring Holly Near, Detroit, MI
- 1983 Fund for Human Dignity Award for public education on the issues of the GLBTQ community
- 1979 Bay Area Music Award Best Independent Label Album, “Imagine My Surprise”, San Francisco, CA
- 1967 Bank of America Achievement Award to Holly Near in the Field of Fine Arts

Holly has also received honors from the following:

The National Lawyers Guild

The National Organization for Women (NOW), Woman of Courage Award

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Additionally, Holly’s portrait hung in at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati OH along with those of other social change artists including Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Pete Seeger, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte and Woody Guthrie.

Holly’s historic papers are housed at Radcliffe’s Schlesinger Library and are regarded as an informative look at the last 40 years of social change movements as experienced by a singer/songwriter/activist. For more information:

<https://hollisarchives.lib.harvard.edu/repositories/8/resources/4882>