



LEE HUNTER • MUSIC

Lee Hunter is a singer, a songwriter, rhythm guitarist, percussionist and pianist with a passion for folklore. From 1992-2014, she worked with guitarist Arvid Smith as the critically acclaimed duo, Tammerlin. Together they placed their own stamp on folk/roots music. What you heard was exceptional guitar work accompanying clever original songs and traditional tunes pulled from the roots of American music.

Since Tammerlin disbanded in 2014, Hunter has been pursuing her own musical path. Still passionate for the stories this music conveys, she is exploring new directions and new collaborations. In 2014 she created a chamber work of music and spoken word for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in Jacksonville, FL along with Charlotte Mabrey, percussionist and Associate Professor of Music at the University of North Florida and Philip Pan, concert master for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. This work became the CD recording, *"A Vision Awakening: A Celebration of the Cummer Gardens and the St. Johns River"*. Hunter's focus continues to be on performing and writing songs in the folk/Americana genre. She and Walter Parks, longtime guitarist for Richie Havens and a fine songwriter and solo performer, were asked to open a show for Emmylou Harris in the summer of 2014. Her management was so impressed that Walter and Lee were asked to open some additional shows for her that same year. Hunter and Parks continue to work together from time to time.

In 2015, Lee teamed up with Joey Kerr, an excellent guitarist and mandolin player and a fine songwriter in his own right. Lee and Joey have been working together for quite some time. "I feel Joey and I have really found our groove. I continue to be excited about our collaboration!" With her 2022 CD project, *Between Nothing and All*, Lee and Joey joined with Darren Ronan on drums, Ernie Ealum on bass and Walter Mingledorf on keyboards to form the five-piece band, Lee Hunter and The Gatherers! The album consists of mostly Lee's original songs with some tasty covers and a new take on a traditional song from the British Isles with guest appearances by Byron House (bass), Joe Craven (fiddle) and Joe Newberry (banjo).

Lee and The Gatherers released her ninth CD recording in May 2025- **Lee Hunter and the Gatherers, "The Ground Beneath My Feet"**. There are 13 songs, some original, some traditional and a few covers, all expressing the music that has influenced her all of her life. There are lots of special guests, too: Lis Williamson, Lon Williamson, John Mailander, Joe Craven, Verlon Thompson, Del Suggs, Dave Murphy, Peter Rowan, Tommy Bledsoe, Gabe Valla, Byron House and Jim Lauderdale.

Hunter's love of music of all kinds began early. She grew up in the Maryland suburbs just outside Washington, DC. She began piano lessons at age six and studied classical piano for about ten years. She got her first guitar at age ten and named it "Pete" for Pete Seeger. The writing was on the wall. She sang in her church choir as a child, her high school chorus and musical theatre productions. After receiving a BA in Biology from the University of North Florida, she found the pull of music performance to be irresistible, so she began studying symphonic percussion at UNF with then principal percussionist of the Jacksonville Symphony, Charlotte Mabrey. Through her work with Mabrey, she met Arvid Smith. Hunter and Smith were drawn together by a shared love for folk and world music. The result was a style that transcended the music's origins while honoring its roots. As Tammerlin took on more and more original material, Hunter was most often the one wielding the pen and performing her songs with a voice that one Florida music magazine called "haunting, passionate, and powerful".

Tammerlin's debut CD, the self-released "Roll Down Thy Window, drew critical acclaim from *Folk Roots*, a prominent European folk and world music magazine, and *Dirty Linen*, an equally prominent American-based folk and world music publication. The album was featured on the BBC World Service. *Folk Roots* chose a track from that recording for inclusion on its "Froots #6" compilation CD. The duo continued their trademark now-mystical, now-rootsy sound with their second CD, "Third Weeks A'Lightnin' (Binky Records)" released in December 1996.

Tammerlin's third recording, "Wind Horses" (Binky Records 2002) featured a number of Hunter's stylistically- varied original songs and a number of traditional ballads. The sound prompted *Dirty Linen Magazine* to call Tammerlin "one of the best kept secrets in America". "Wind Horses" was followed by



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"One Kind Favor", released on their own label, BirdsTale Records, in 2005. On this recording, Hunter really began to stretch as a songwriter and arranger. There's pop, country, blues, even ragtime, side by side with beautiful arrangements of some traditional fare, including a resurrected ballad from Kentucky, sung by Lee and accompanied by Darol Anger. The London-based world music magazine, *fROOTS*, proclaimed, "gentle shimmers of rootsy Americana", and Savannah, GA's, *Connect Savannah*, stated, "Lee Hunter's high, wispy vocals and Arvid Smith's captivating dobro and guitarwork reference early Richard & Linda Thompson".

The fifth and final Tammerlin recording, "No Small Thing", featured nine of Hunter's original songs. From the introspective, hook-driven opener "Autumn Refrain" to the bittersweet title song to the hope-filled closing tune "The Last Dance", beautifully arranged by Darol Anger, her writing proved stronger than ever-lyrical and intelligent, with melodies that stick in your head. Always known for their treatment of traditional songs, the album offers a richly textured reading of "I Once Loved a Lass", with Smith's electric and acoustic 12-strings and Darol Anger's violins swirling around an acoustic bass foundation created by Byron House. In contrast is "Leaves of Life", a sparse duet where Joe Craven's haunting solo violin illuminates Hunter's vocal.

Hunter has toured extensively and found and continues to find her music in demand at venues across the U.S. and in Europe. Lee shared the stage with many artists including The Band, Emmylou Harris, Alex De Grassi, Doc Watson, the Del McCoury Band and Dar Williams. And so the adventure continues.

In praise of *The Ground Beneath My Feet*; "Beautiful, Melancholic, Articulate and Sensitive Modern Folk Music. We first encountered Lee Hunter in 2023 when she courteously sent us her *Between Nothing & All* album which was a whole bag full of sweetness and charm; and without spoiling anything THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET is every bit as charming;....." Alan Harrison, *The Rocking Magpie*

In praise of *Between Nothing and All*; "Even the first time I played this album, the songs felt like I'd known them forever...Quality American Folk and what we used to call Bedsit Music...it makes the long hours of listening to 'average music' worth it when a pearl pops into my life like this album has" Alan Harrison *The Rocking Magpie*

In praise of *Between Nothing and All*: "I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Lee Hunter for many years, all the way back to her duo days with *Tory Voodoo* and *Tammerlin*. It's no surprise that other artists want to collaborate with her, as they do on *Between Nothing and All*. After all, she is a masterful singer/songwriter and a kind spirit who is generous with her talent. With *The Gatherers* she brings together a family of talented musicians who wrap her beautiful vocals in a lush blanket of sound. This CD currently lives in my car's single disc player-the highest compliment I can pay an artist." Pat Crawford, Executive Director, WUWF Media, Producer and host of *Radio Live*, Pensacola, FL

"their (Tammerlin) fifth overall release not only picks up where *Favor* left off, but finds Hunter's songs basking in a magic all their own...A solid step forward." Dan Willging, *Dirty Linen*

"...a gorgeous, poetic tapestry.....Akin to Lebanese-American poet Khalil Gibran—he of "The Prophet" fame—Hunter possesses the wisdom, and the heart, to know that joy and sorrow often walk hand in hand in this life." Rick de Yampert, *The Daytona Beach News Journal*

"No Small Thing" is surely a superior album, with very subtle arrangements and stunning performances. This album has been inside my CD player for a long time recently, an event that seldom happens to me as I receive so many CD's...." Massimo Ferro, *Highway 61*, Radio Voce Spazio, Italy

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