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BEST RELIGIOUS MUSIC

Joy Katzen-Guthrie

www.JoyfulNoise.net

In June, Katzen-Guthrie led her first Jewish Heritage Tour of China, and that was just the latest adventure for this Palm Harbor-based singer/composer, musician/webmaster. She also puts out her own e-newsletter (to document all of her activities -- whew!), runs a professional recording studio with her husband and has seven recordings of original and spiritual music, available through her Web site or at a number of diverse retailers, from the Florida Holocaust Museum and Clearwater's Temple B'nai Israel, to Planet Grooves and Sam Goody. The music on Katzen-Guthrie's 1999 disc, *Passages*, runs the gamut from traditional Judaica to a eulogy for Marvin Gaye, and her words are uplifting and inspiring, but rarely preachy. Her lovely voice has earned her consistent appearances as High Holy Days cantorial soloist throughout Florida, and since Passover 2000, she has been the year-round soloist for B'nai Israel, which boasts Tampa Bay's largest congregation. Katzen-Guthrie's performances -- featuring liturgical music of the Jewish Kabbalists, Israeli and Yiddish folk tunes, musical stage and film works, storytelling and original songs -- take place at shuls, churches, community centers, restaurants and bookstores. She is truly a gifted musician and a wonderful example of what spirituality and faith can mean in the 21st century.

BEST OF THE BAY 2000

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more stuff for less money

