**Short Bio – Loretta Hagen – LORETTAHAGEN.COM**

Reviewers describe award winning singer-songwriter Loretta Hagen as ‘*heart driven, soul filling, Folk Americana.*‘ With 4 CDs to her credit, Loretta’s rich alto voice and strong song-writing skills have led her to win many awards, including a **JAM Awards’** (Jersey Acoustic Music Awards) “*Top Female Songwriter of the Year*,” JAM nomination “*Album of the Year*,” 4 time nominee 2017 Just Plain Folks Music Awards for Album of the Year” (Mud and Stone), New Folk Song, Traditional Folk Song, and Holiday Song. 2018 **PureM Magazine** winner for “Best Song” nominee Best Album (Lucky Stars) winner of the **NJ Folk Festival Songwriter Competition** and 2 time designation as a **CT Folk Festival** finalist.

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In every life, there are inevitable times of darkness and of  light. Loretta Hagen's fourth CD "Lucky Stars," takes the listener on a personal journey through loss, healing, and ultimately the promise of hope.

Four years in the making, "Lucky Stars" brings Loretta's journey full circle, when faced with the heartache of illness, death, and going on without loved ones so cherished. She finds solace in the promise of new beginnings, love, and the inherent knowledge that our Lucky Stars are watching over us.

Loretta's third CD, “Mud and Stone,” well received by DJs worldwide, debuted at #10 on Folk DJ Charts, consistently #1 on the Roots Music Report for NJ, #5 Top 50 Folk Albums RMR, and topped many best of lists. Five years later the album is still going strong, recently receiving 4 nominations for the Just Plain Folk Awards with awards being announced late fall 2017.

"This effort [Mud and Stone] is first class, top tier, a true contender as an artist to reckon with."  John Apice ~ No Depression

Following her critically acclaimed CD Something More, co-produced by Pat McInerney (Nanci Griffith), Hagen released Sundown Till Dawn, a CD that garnered rave reviews and radio play across the country.

Sundown Till Dawn is extremely personal, with the title track written about her mother who suffered with Alzheimer’s disease. Loretta’s Mom passed away peacefully at her home. The emotionally charged ballad is included on the soundtrack of a film called “10 Mountains 10 Years” chronicling the journey of a group of mountain climbers who are raising awareness about the disease.

Loretta has performed at premiere venues across the Northeast and Nashville, sharing the stage with Pete Seeger, Roger McGuinn, Sloan Wainwright, Steve Forbert, Richie Havens, Kim Richey and Marshall Crenshaw among many others.

Loretta performs primarily with her trio consisting of husband/guitarist Gary Hagen and djembe players Linda Lambiase or Curtis Kretz.    www.lorettahagen.com

Quotes - No Depression Review - Lucky Stars - https://trespassmusic.org/home/blog/loretta-hagen-earns-stellar-review-from-no-depression

"Award-Winning New Jersey Folk Singer Always Shined -- Now She Sparkles"

About the title track Lucky Stars - "Loretta is in fine voice – probably the best of her career. The tonality is angelic yet possesses strength. Inspiring and beautiful." Of Break and Believe  "Those are the songs that resonated. They always do. Loretta has that here and the guitar-work continues to be superlative. Loretta’s album attempts to be a positive message despite the difficulties many face daily. “Believe” is the opposite of “Break,” and it’s an ingenious follow-up. Ladders - "Loretta’s inflection in her lyric is lucid, phrasing in this song is golden. She gives it a smoky tone – I could hear Cassandra Wilsonsing this in her deep soulful and bluesy voice. Loretta has a definite talent for well-decorated lyrics tied with meaning but not preachy."

More Reviews world wide -Lucky Stars

https://trespassmusic.org/home/blog/loretta-hagen-s-new-album-lucky-stars-earning-rave-reviews-23-folk-dj-l

 QUOTES

"Loretta Hagen is back with Lucky Stars… a very nicely produced recording featuring eleven thoughtful and reflective songs by Loretta, that are beautifully sung with lovely accompaniment. Definitely worth checking out."

Jan Hall, Folk Roots Radio with Jan Hall

"Loretta Hagen, these delicate recordings tell her talent again. Lucky Stars is a very well produced album with delicate, clear arrangements, talent as a songwriter with very soulful songs,  the melodies are just beautiful and as a singer she is able of a moving rendition...a strong album...a beautiful pleasure."  - Mike Penard, Radio Isa France