

## Fiddle Music CD Review

### Kate Lee with No Strings Attached “On Your Way”

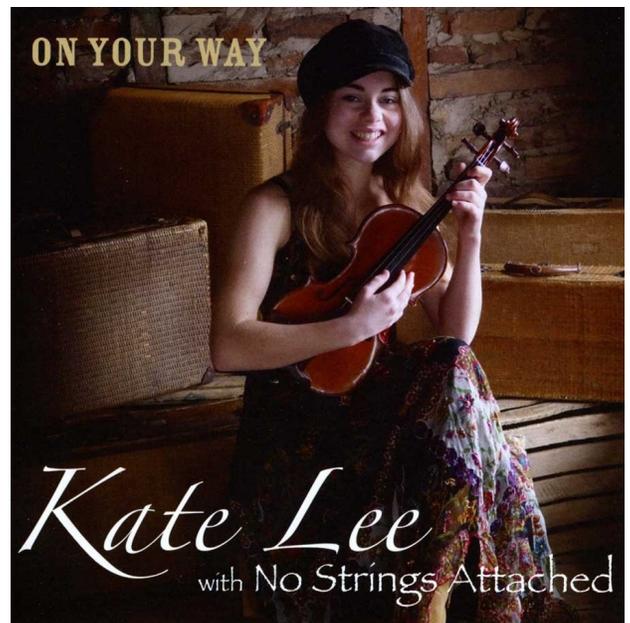
Contributed by: Jack Metzger

One of the very special aspects of being part of *Fiddlers of the Genesee* for so many years is to have had the privilege of seeing how so many members grow musically during their years with the club. Fiddlers young and old have “blossomed” within FOG’s nurturing atmosphere. There have been more than 2 dozen young fiddlers who have been FOGgers. Although by high school age, most have cars & jobs and lose interest in fiddlin’.

One young fiddler who hasn’t lost interest is Kate Lee. She joined FOG in 2004 and I first met her while I was organizing a “FOG Young Fiddlers” performance to be given at the *Earthtones Coffeehouse* that year. Kate was one of several young fiddlers who signed up play at that “gig” and her performance there showed that she was exceptionally talented. Not only does she do a fine job of playing the old-time fiddle tunes, she also has a beautiful voice reminiscent of Alison Krause. In addition, she excels at playing her instrument in the “violin” style (at the Kanack School, then Hochstein and currently as a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra); and she a gift for composing lyrics for her original songs. Even though Kate devotes so much time and energy towards her music she manages a straight-A academic record and is planning on going to college.

In 2005, I began accompanying Kate on guitar at a few small gigs and within a few months we were playing 2 or 3 paying gigs each month. About that time Kate decided to call our band *No Strings Attached*. Soon after, I recruited Ben Ford (an early FOG member) to take turns playing guitar with Kate. Soon after that we decided to expand to a trio with Ben as the full-time guitarist and myself switching to bass. In early 2007 we recruited Rochester’s premier banjo player / mandolinist, John Irvine, to add some musical pyrotechnics. Later that year, I invited bassist Chuck Boda (another former FOGger) to take my place full-time with the group.

The current *No Strings Attached* band (Ben, John & Chuck) along with few studio musicians back her up on this CD. That same lineup of “strings” joined Kate for the November 30, 2008 airing of *On Stage*, a weekly series broadcast from the Rochester PBS TV Station WXXI which features notable area musicians.



Be sure to visit her nice website at [www.kateleemusic.com](http://www.kateleemusic.com) for a list of upcoming gigs and hear snippets of some of her music. You can also order copies of her CD from the website.

The *On Your Way* CD includes 10 tunes which are listed below in the order in which they appear on the CD. You may recognize the traditional fiddle tune *Frosty Morning* and the Sting song *Fields of Gold*, (although Kate’s version was inspired by the late Eva Cassidy) but all the others are original pieces that Kate co-wrote with her father and local singer-songwriter Marty Roberts. This is an impressive first effort!

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|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Blood on the Banjo | 5. Beige            | 9. Fields of Gold                     |
| 2. On Your Way        | 6. Frosty Morning   | 10. On Your Way (Live at the Bluebird |
| 3. In The Mirror      | 7. Are We There Yet | Café in Nashville, TN)                |
| 4. Train Song         | 8. 20 Paces         |                                       |

You can see *Kate Lee with No Strings Attached* on Saturday, March 28 at the Sodus Bluegrass Festival to be held at the Sodus, NY High School where they will open for the nationally touring bluegrass act *Nothin’ Fancy* (which also has a great fiddler). Kate and her group kick off their set at 7 pm. This is a benefit concert sponsored by the Sodus Rotary Club. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door.