

# Kath Bloom

*"One of the most beautiful singers ever. Heartbreaking."*—**Devendra Banhart**

*"I've never enjoyed sharing a bill with anyone as much as I have with Kath. She's wonderful and lights up the room wherever she goes."*—**Mark Kozelek**

*"I consider myself her biggest fan."*—**Josephine Foster**

*"More soulful than Al Green"*—**Caveh Zahedi**

*"Kath's voice is urgent and yet calming - a call of reckoning"*—**Nat Hentoff**

*"May just be the purest, most natural heir to the literate confessional songwriting of Joni Mitchell's **Blue**"*—**Steven Rosen**

*"One of this country's finest living songwriters."*—**Andria Spring**

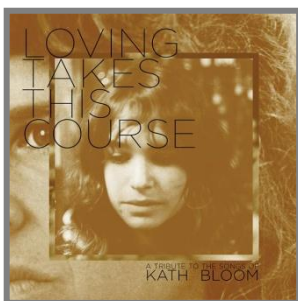
*"If you're after some real emotion from one of America's undiscovered greats then look no further."*—**Boomkat**

*"The courageous majesty of Bloom's music is there in its cutting simplicity and in its poetry . . . there is not one thing even slightly derivative about Bloom – a modern rarity."*—**Melissa Osborne**

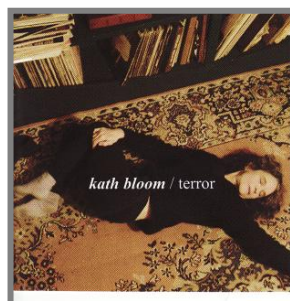


If you remember the Richard Linklater movie *Before Sunrise*, you undoubtedly recall the Kath Bloom song featured in that film—"Come Here." Her voice is the first thing you notice—tender and haunting on some songs, filled with strength and resolve on others. Likely, she will burn a hole straight to your soul on the first listen.

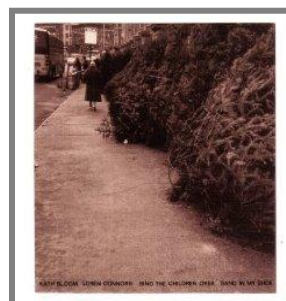
The more you hear, the more you notice it's not just the arresting voice, but the power of the songwriting. *"Beautiful"* is the typical response—the kind of beauty that comes from truth, musical and lyrical. *"Devasting"* comments NPR's **Song of the Day**. There are no good comparisons, but imagine the cool of Joni Mitchell combined with the heat of Maria Callas. In reality, she's simply Kath Bloom: vocalist, song writer and musician extraordinaire.



*Loving Takes This Course* (2009)



*Terror* (2008)



*Sing the Children Over/Sand in My Shoe* (2008)



*Finally* (2005)

<http://www.myspace.com/kathbloomchapter>

# Kath Bloom



“[Bloom’s] weary voice gnaws into the listener’s hide from the very start” **Lars Gotrich, NPR’s Song of the Day**

“Her unearthly, yet increasingly rugged, voice tackles a sentiment . . . in a way that cuts away the cliché aspect and makes it honest. And then she’ll add to it a thought that takes it beyond that level, to feel like poetry, and then like revelation, like unbarring the secrets around us”—**Dave Heaton**

## ABOUT

**K**ath Bloom is a legend of folk, country, blues and avant-garde music. She has been making records since the late 70s. The daughter of world-renowned oboist Robert Bloom, Kath was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, where she trained as a cellist. Her formal music education, however, soon gave way to the guitar, which was self-taught among the lonely tombstones of a nearby graveyard.

### Early Recordings

Bloom collaborated with Bruce Neumann in the early '70s, but it wasn't until she met avant-garde guitarist Loren MazzaCane Connors in 1976 that she started recording. Bloom and Connors recorded six limited edition albums of fragile, simple folk and blues melodies, the majority of which were written by Bloom herself.

Their collaboration ended in 1984 with the release of their final album *Moonlight*.

Happily, in 2008 Chapter Music brought together two of these revered LPs, along with bonus tracks, in a double-CD compilation: *Sing the Children Over/Sand In My Shoe*.



### Florida

Next stop was Florida, where Bloom and husband Stan Bronski retreated to the orange groves, buying and rehabilitating old houses. While raising three children and struggling to make ends meet, Kath operated a number of innovative after-school programs in music and other arts. The song writing, however, continued at a fevered pace.

Like the New England woods, the swampy wilderness of Florida soon claimed a place both in Bloom’s heart and in her music.

Kath was back to the studio in the 1990s, recording in friends' lounge rooms or cut-rate studios. Director Richard Linklater discovered Bloom's music about this time and subsequently featured her song "Come Here" in the 1995 film, *Before Sunrise*. By many accounts, the haunting allure of “Come Here” makes its defining moment in the film one of the most romantic of all time. Albums from this period include *It’s Just a Dream* (1992), *Love Explosion* (1993), and *Come Here: The Florida Years* (1999).



### Back Home Again

In 2000, Bloom returned home to New England. Kath, husband Stan Bronski, and Tom Hanford (a long-time collaborator from the Loren Connors days) rejoined forces as the **Love At Work Band**. Along the way,



frequent contributors include Fran Patnaude (guitar), Chris Butler (drums) and Heidi Randall (vocals); Marty Carlson (guitar) sometimes sits in as a special guest. In

addition to Kath’s own songs, **Love at Work** serves up a frothy homebrew of vintage roots, blues, and rock 'n' roll.

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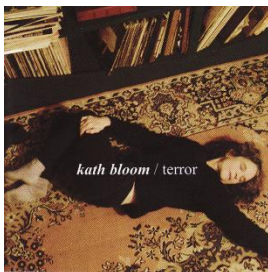
## Finally

In 2005, Chapter Music brought to light a number of Bloom's undiscovered gems from the 90's and released this gorgeous collection as the **Finally** CD. **Finally** reveals the timeless quality of these heartbreaking, haunting and remarkably beautiful songs. Both the depth and the breadth of Kath's song writing are on display in this collection, as well as her extraordinary voice and musicianship. There probably is no better introduction to Bloom's work.



## Terror

The **Terror** CD followed in 2008. Most tracks feature Bloom's gentle guitar picking, haunting vocals, and mournful harmonica. Providing brilliant backup is the full extended cast of band mates from **Love at Work**.



Of **Terror**, Steve Rosen writes: *"The album is marvelous—these folk-rock songs are concise observations about life lived and love won and lost, filled with an eerie poetic edge that can make you shiver."*

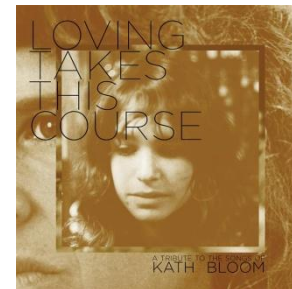
Kath's poignant lyrics similarly captivate Dave Hinton: *"The songs cut deep because they don't feel like exercises or fiction, but hit a human nerve, tap into essential problems and pleasures of daily life."*

## Loving Takes This Course

Greeted with glowing acclaim, **Loving Takes This Course: A Tribute to the Songs of Kath Bloom** made its debut in 2009. This lovingly assembled tribute to Bloom's extraordinary songwriting talent sparkles from top to bottom, and includes 16 fresh interpretations of songs from all periods of Bloom's career, plus a bonus CD of the remarkable originals of each song. Contributors include: Marble Sounds, Bill Callahan, Laura Jean, Mark Kozelek, Mick Turner & Peggy Frew, Devendra Banhart, Scout Niblett, The Dodos, Josephine Foster, Mia Doi Todd, Corina Repp, Marianne Dissard & Joey Burns, Amy Rude, Meg Baird and The Concretes.

Critical response to **Loving Takes This Course** has been effusive: Adam P. Newton attests that *"It is right that these singers so deeply treasure Kath Bloom, as her lyrics and melodic timing provide for truly gorgeous music . . . This tribute project succeeds in paying homage to a cherished icon, while providing the world a quality re-introduction to the music of Kath Bloom."*

Matthew Ralph compliments the worthy renditions of Kath's songs by all of the artists on the tribute, but singles out for special praise the common denominator among them—the music itself: *"Simply put, Kath Bloom's criminally underappreciated songs, even when repeated two and three times on a two-disc set, steal the show."*



*"Every track is moving in its own way,"* concludes Alan Ranta. *"Loving Takes This Course is a beacon of quality . . . the kind of once-in-a-career retrospective that makes an obscurity into a legend."*

NPR's Song of the Day singles out Bill Callahan's "The Breeze/My Baby Cries" as a *"cover worthy of [Bloom's] devastating songwriting."* Lars Gotrich further applauds the two-CD approach of the Tribute, combining covers with originals, *"giving a new audience the opportunity to discover Bloom's heartbreaking works firsthand."*

## Onward

One thing Bloom is **not** doing is resting on her laurels. The songwriting continues as penetrating and prolific as ever. Look for an album of brand new songs within the year, as well as another compilation of uncovered jewels from the treasure chest of her archives.



On the performing front, Kath is playing shows with her band **Love At Work**, as well as doing solo gigs. Recent mini-tours have included the Northeast, California, Florida and London. She shares the stage with many, including compatriots **Mark Kozelek** and **Little Wings** (Kyle Field).

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