



Laura Weber Cash

Laura Weber, raised in Corvallis, Oregon, began to play music at the age of 9. Her dad worked out a trade with a local luthier to restore his old fiddle in exchange for building a two-story deck on the repairman's house. That marked the beginning of a long musical journey. She soon discovered a special bond with the fiddle.

By the age of 12, Laura had developed a love for Old Time Fiddling, winning fiddle contests throughout the Western United States under direction from her teacher, Joey McKenzie. Some titles include the Oregon State Junior Champion, Western Open, Northwest Regional, The World Series of Fiddling Jr. Champion, High Desert, Top Spud, Sierra Nevada Jr. Champion, and the much coveted 'Benny Thomasson Memorial Award'. "My family was so

supportive, enduring the miles, camping and late nights all summer long, to so many fiddle contests, year after year." At age 17, Laura was titled 'National Jr. Fiddle Champion' at Weiser, Idaho, which she credits as one of her proudest moments. In December 1989, later that year, she moved to Nashville, TN to tour with Patty Loveless, singing harmony and playing fiddle, guitar & mandolin. She later made her way to Sakaide, Japan to play bluegrass for a year. Upon returning to Nashville, Laura went back out on the road with several more artists, including James House, Pam Tillis, Harley Allen, and many other new artists. "I was honored to fiddle in Mr. Roy Acuff's show and also appear with Ray Price's Cherokee Cowboys on the Grand Ole Opry." She went on to tour with her then future in-laws, June Carter & Johnny Cash.

Laura has released two solo albums, *Among My Souvenirs*, from 2003, and *Awake But Dreaming*, released in 2010. Encompassing the ideal of traditional country music, she handpicked each song from the catalogs of her favorite singers and players. Her love for traditional country music reaches all the way back to her childhood and she has dedicated much of her life to teaching, preserving and promoting these timeless sounds, hoping to assist in the restoration of traditional country music back to where it should be; on our radios and in our homes.

Laura's playing and singing can also be heard on artist recordings such as Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash, George Jones, Loretta Lynn, Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Billy Joe Shaver, Rodney Crowell, Earl Scruggs, Benny Martin, Larry Gatlin, The Carter Family III, Emmylou Harris, and Marty Stuart, among others.

In 2009, twenty years after her previous win, Laura returned to the National Fiddle Contest in Weiser and won first place in the Adult Division. She now lives in Nashville, Tennessee with her two children, AnnaBelle and Jack.