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Our music is on [SPOTIFY](#)

**RELEASE DATE:** October 23, 2020

**Barbara Cassidy Band  
Releases New  
Eight-Song CD:  
A Winter Frame of Mind**

Just in time for the holidays, Barbara Cassidy and Eric Chasalow, the Massachusetts based husband and wife team behind the Barbara Cassidy Band, are releasing “**A Winter Frame of Mind**”, an eight song CD that includes two well-known holiday classics: **Wexford Carol** and **Auld Lang Syne**. The Celtic Folk music tinged CD also features two originals written by Barbara: **A Drinking Song**, which she set to a favorite W.B. Yeats poem, and **I Have a Daughter**. Mostly ballads, Cassidy puts her emotive, crystalline voice to excellent and effective use on her covers of Sir Paul McCartney’s **Calico Skies**, Jimmy Webb’s **All I Know**, the Irish singer-songwriter Briege Murphy’s **The Hills of South Armagh**, and **His Bright Smile Haunts Me Still**, a song that was popular in America in the late 1800s.

Recorded in Barbara and Eric's home studio (engineered by Eric) and at WGBH Fraser Studio (engineered by Antonio Oliart). Hanneke Cassel recorded by Yann Falquet. Produced by Eric Chasalow, final mixing and mastering by Dan Cardinal at Dimension Sound.

**[LISTEN TO IT HERE](#)**

## TRACK LISTINGS

### **Calico Skies 2:36 (McCartney)**

Written by Sir Paul McCartney with a deliberate nod to a “trad” acoustic sound. Chasalow’s arrangement pushes it firmly into that territory.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Becky Khitrik, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitar, penny and low whistle, tambourine  
Kyle Forsthoff, bodhran

### **The Hills of South Armagh 3:26 (Murphy)**

Briege Murphy, who is from South Armagh, writes contemporary Irish traditional songs and comes from a family steeped in that musical tradition. The song deftly connects the traditional Irish soundscape to the issues of the modern Irish diaspora.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitar, mandolin

### **His Bright Smile Haunts Me Still 3:29 (Wrighton/Carpenter)**

The earliest known publication of this ballad was in 1858. Barbara heard it from the singing of Sheila Kay Adams, a seventh-generation bearer of her family’s two-hundred-year-old ballad-singing tradition.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, mandola  
Hanneke Cassel, violin

### **Wexford Carol 4:10 (Traditional)**

The date of origin of Wexford Carol is open to debate. Whether it hailed from medieval times or as recent as the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the song conveys the magisterial nature of the story of the birth of Christ.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitars, mandolin, antique cymbals, drones

### **A Drinking Song 2:51 (Cassidy/Yeats)**

Barbara composed the melody and set it to one of her favorite W.B. Yeats poem: “A Drinking Song.” The sentiment is universal and timeless.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitar, penny whistle  
Joe Kessler, violin  
Jimmy Ryan, mandolin

**All I Know 3:41****(Webb)**

Jimmy Webb's spectacular take on the dissolution of a relationship rendered here by Barbara's hauntingly melancholy interpretation.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitar, organ  
Travis Alford, trumpet  
Robert Nieske, bass

**I Have a Daughter 3:00****(Cassidy)**

A dark reverie with a lilt, Barbara's point of departure for writing this song was inspired by a close reading of many of the Child Ballad lyrics, in particular: The Cruel Mother.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitar, mandolin

**Auld Lang Syne 4:08****(Traditional)**

This may not be the tune you were expecting. The lyrics to this song have been attributed to Scottish poet Robert Burns, who claimed that the words of "Auld Lang Syne" were taken "from an old man's singing." Barbara's vocals convey wistfulness with a touch of regret.

Barbara Cassidy, vocals  
Eric Chasalow, guitars

**BIOS**

Barbara Cassidy and Eric Chasalow, award-winning singer-songwriters, whose most recent work include the 2018 CD Ford Hill Road, are singer-songwriters in the American Folk Tradition. Their finely crafted songs have stories to tell.

Barbara Cassidy grew up in New England and among the Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts where she learned to drive on a tractor, helped with the haying, and waited tables in a (maple) sugar house. She turned to songwriting in 2012.

Eric Chasalow grew up listening to The Beatles and Charlie Parker, writing big band charts, and making trips into New York to hear jazz greats play live. After college at Bates and New England Conservatory, he moved to New York to study at the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center and developed a career as a composer. Eric is currently the Dean of the Graduate School at Brandeis University and is the Irving Fine Professor of Music at Brandeis University. His music is performed world-wide.

Barbara and Eric were first place winners in the 2015 Pennsylvania Heritage Songwriters Contest for their song "Anna's Song-Shohola, 1864" which is featured on their debut CD: Leaving Things the Way I Found Them.

Barbara and Eric are members of ASCAP and run the independent music label [Suspicious Motives Records](#).

## **PRESS ABOUT OUR SONGS**

“[Barbara Cassidy is] A brilliant singer and world-wise story-teller.” JW Vibe

“Barbara Cassidy’s voice is a blend of instrument and mood.” Bill Copeland Music News

“...songs that look back with a vivid, golden eye...[with] production that’s remarkably clear and sparkling.” Music Connection Magazine