**1st Person BIO: Amy Duckett Wagner – “Amy Dee”** [**www.amyduckettwagner.com**](http://www.amyduckettwagner.com) **(215) 514 - 0971**

**My songs** **visit many genres (Americana, swing, blues, old country, folk, bluegrass, gospel) and help the listener connect with the experience of traveling and discovering music. I like to think songs can paint a picture of the way living a musical life can touch people, improve life and continually feed our inspiration. At shows, people can feel how inspiration flows through a singer/songwriter who weaves real life and the muse into stories that become songs.**

**"Back to the music, back to the song,... back to the music, back where you belong." (from Back to the Music)**

**A family of music-lovers and the power of song influenced me at an early age. Growing up, our parents were teachers with wanderlust, summers free, a Volkswagen bus and an insatiable appetite for live music. Mom played Dylan and Baez, while Dad favored bluegrass and old country; his uncle had a bluegrass band.**

**“Just like a skippin’ stone, just like a fallin’ star, it doesn’t matter where you are. As long as you’re movin’…” (from Skippin’ Stones)**

**“Heard his uncle’s band playin’ every Friday night, the soul of bluegrass music was the sound of his life.” (from “Ringin’ Martin Guitar)**

**I remember distinctly how life changed for me that day the string quartet from the Philadelphia Orchestra came to our Pearl S. Buck Elementary to say, “You can play an instrument, too…” I wanted to play violin, but flute was what my parents found for me, followed by piano lessons and later guitar and some fiddle. My favorite song could be the one I’m writing now, a jazz standard I am learning or a ditty from the 30’s dad taught me during those long cross-country drives.**

 **“I don’t know why, Maybe because it’s more natural to fly, than to stay in one place, settled down.” (from My Special Friend)**

**I write a lot of songs in many genres, but lately I'm really enjoying writing upbeat swing tunes. Many of the songs I'm recording now on my CD with the working title “Big Time” are original swing tunes, with a waltz and a ballad included for good measure.**

**“A sparkle, a kiss,… romantic bliss; I couldn’t ask for more…” (from What Shall I Do With You?)**

**“It’s tempting when your heart’s a flutter, but I won’t rush, I know better.” (from A Place to Return To)**

**As a songwriter, vocalist and guitar player, I revel in the way live music builds friendships and community. I’m an active member of many music and songwriter groups, and this year, the Philadelphia Folksong Society’s Musician’s Coop.**

 **“Dance to swingin’ music, Laugh a lot, sing. A few good friends, a few good songs, and we have everything…” (Crooked Road Blues)**

**I am grateful to Ashokan western and swing week music camp for the musicianship, kinship, skills, and inspirations gained there. And, for making friends with some of The Revelers (Glenn, Chas, and Eric, when they were still the Red Stick Ramblers). Southern music and family culture have influenced me since those cross-country family drives listening to Old Country on the radio. I’ve found much inspiration in the music of Texas and the culture of Louisiana, where every gathering has live homegrown music, and all ages are dancing to it.**

 **“Waltz me as the moonlight dances slowly across the river, like a painting done in three-quarter time…” (from Dreamlight)**

**I’m also passionate about the outdoors, festivals, playing music outside, and love dancing under the stars… The Great Outdoors has inspired many sentiments in my songs over the years.**

**“The ocean’s musk filled the air, That Monet sunset seemed to set a dare…” (from Lucky Storm)**

**I occasionally write more sombre songs, but I’ve been known to say that even my blues tend to be a little upbeat.**

**“I walked in that garden, tears stained my face, a sad wind dried them as I read every name.” (from Remember 911)**

 **“It’s one of those days when nothin’ feels right. You fill up the hours, ‘cause it feels better at night…” (from Hard Road Blues)**

**I have always written a lot of love songs from different points of view. In December of last year, I finished a song called “A Dozen Love Songs.” I had written 12 love songs that year, so, this song made it a Baker’s Dozen, a future title for the Love Song Album.**

**“Love’s a box of jewels, or else a box of glass.” (from Maybe)**

**“Every mornin’ like a kick in the gut, the thought of her still stirs him up.” (from Changed by Love)**