

*"A poignant, very moving and socially  
relevant journey over a century of music."*

Irish National Radio (RTÉ)

Antelope Productions Presents

# MOTHERLAND SONGS





**Motherland Songs** is a new, live theatre show from Ireland featuring classic songs of struggle and celebration alongside thought-provoking spoken word. Irish singer/actor **Edel Murphy** and band perform songs from such songwriting greats as **Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Nanci Griffith, Nina Simone** and **Kate Bush**.

*"An amazing show...the songs are acerbic, to the point, and the backdrop of visuals was very powerful. I was blown away by it".*

Dick O'Riordan, Business Post

Following her extensive tours of the US, Europe and Asia as a vocalist with hit shows **'Celtic Woman'** and **'Riverdance'**, Edel Murphy brings you through the Dustbowl of the Great Depression, into the homes of 1950s urban desperation, down streets of protest in the 1960s and into the tumult of the 21st century.





# MOTHERLAND SONGS



**Motherland Songs** is a historical jukebox of memorable female characters, from the teenage runaway of "She's Leaving Home" by **The Beatles** to **Dolly Parton's** infamous and misunderstood "Jolene". "No Frontiers" is an Irish song which lovingly evokes **Amelia Earhart**, the US heroine of transatlantic flight whose plane touched down in the north of Ireland in 1932, completing the first flight across the Atlantic by a lone female pilot.



Dynamic and character driven musical interpretations are interspersed with poignant and socially relevant spoken word from such Irish poets as **Sara Berkeley** and **Eavan Boland**.

Other texts are taken from contemporary news reports, diary entries, interviews and published work by US poets including **Langston Hughes** and **Maya Angelou**.

With new musical arrangements by acclaimed Irish musician and producer **Ewan Cowley**, the show is a night of folk, country, 1960s pop and modern classics by the greatest, and some less well known, performers and composers.



# MOTHERLAND SONGS

*Words & music of struggle and celebration*



*"Edie Brickley can bring a tear to your eye and a smile to your lips with the sweetness of her singing."*

Liffey Champion

## Song selection 2023\*

**Róisín Dubh** (Irish Traditional, Arr. E. Cowley)  
**Bread & Roses** (M. Fariña / J. Oppenheim)  
**Trouble In The Fields** (N. Griffith / R. West)  
**Hard Times Come Again No More** (Trad Arr. E. Cowley)  
**Love For Sale** (C. Porter)  
**In The Pines** (Trad. Arr. E. Cowley)  
**No Frontiers** (J. MacCarthy)  
**Four Women** (N. Simone)  
**In The Ghetto** (M. Davis)  
**Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream** (E. McCurdy)  
**With God On Our Side** (B.Dylan)



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**The Times They Are a-Changin'** (B. Dylan)  
**Catch The Wind** (D. Leitch)  
**She's Leaving Home** (Lennon / McCartney)  
**At Seventeen** (J. Ian)  
**Jolene** (D. Parton)  
**This Woman's Work** (K. Bush)  
**Galway To Graceland** (R. Thompson)  
**After The Gold Rush** (N. Young)  
**Motherland** (N. Merchant)  
**You Don't Own Me** (D. White / J. Madara)  
**I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free** (B. Taylor)



\*Songs subject to change



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*Words & music of struggle and celebration*



Spoken word selection 2023\*

Poetry extracts -

**'Pantoum of the Great Depression'** by Donald Justice (1925-2004)

**'House Burning'** by John R. Reed (b. 1937)

**'Advertisement for the Waldorf Astoria'** by Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

**'White Hawthorn In The West of Ireland'** by Eavan Boland (1944-2020)

**'Desire In Spring'** by Francis Ledwidge (1887-1917)

**'On Freedom'** by Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

**'Famine Cottages'** by Sara Berkeley (b. 1967)



Other texts -

**Extract from Dustbowl diary** - Martha Schmidt Friesen (1904-1955)

**'On The Role Of The Artist'** - interview given by Nina Simone in 1968

**Report from the Daily Mail (England) 1967** - 'She's Leaving Home'

**'On Country Music'** - from interviews given by Harlan Howard, Willie Nelson and Emmylou Harris.

\*Texts subject to change





***"Edel Murphy is a fine singer..."***

Niall Stokes, Editor of Hot Press

## What our audience is saying...

**"...such a lovely night. Beautiful singer and the story we can all relate to, especially those of us old enough to remember the events that were covered and the songs that were sung."**

Carmel Smith, Civic Theatre Tallaght.

**"...it was absolutely fabulous. The photographs behind brought new meaning to the songs. I can't recommend it more."**

Tania Whelan Cahill, Draíocht Theatre



**"...fantastic. Edel is a beautiful singer and the musicians were amazing. Thoroughly recommend!"**

Fionnuala Colton, Strule Arts Centre

**"A must see show. Edel brings the songs alive with visual backdrops, accompaniment by great musicians."**

Bernie McGrath, Balor Theatre



**"I was mesmerised by your fabulous voice, lovely show and brilliant musicians. Such talent. Thanks for a fabulous show."**

Carol-Anne Herson, Whale Theatre

**"...incredible voice, brilliant music, poignant images." Amanda Dromey, Source Arts Theatre**

**"...a brilliant show, we would go again in a heartbeat. Edel Murphy has a beautiful voice and is a great performer and the band is fabulous."**

Dorothy McArdle, Draíocht Theatre







*“Edel Murphy haunts and soothes with a voice that would silence angels.”*  
Chris O'Rourke, artsreview.com

# MOTHERLAND SONGS



## Songs Of 20th Century Women EP

Five classic tracks including 'Jolene' & 'You Don't Own Me'  
performed by Edel Murphy

'Songs Of 20th Century Women' EP  
features five classic tracks including  
'Jolene' and 'Trouble In The Fields' - out  
now on all music streaming platforms.

The debut album 'MOTHERLAND SONGS',  
featuring the stunning voice of Edel Murphy  
set to exciting new musical arrangements for  
piano, guitar, cello and live band by producer  
Ewan Cowley - out summer 2024.

# MOTHERLAND SONGS

## Songs Of 20th Century Women EP

Motherland Songs is a live multimedia theatre show featuring classic songs of struggle and celebration.  
This EP presents five new studio recordings of highlights performed by Edel Murphy.

1. Motherland (R. Merz) 3:58
2. Trouble In The Fields (R. Griffith / R. West) 3:25
3. Jolene (D. Partee) 3:27
4. You Don't Own Me (B. White / J. Walker) 3:05
5. No Frontiers (J. MacCarthy) 4:12

Produced & arranged by Ewan Cowley

Edel Murphy - voice  
Ewan Cowley - electric & acoustic guitars, bass guitar, piano,  
synth, drum programming  
David Doyle - cello (tracks 1, 2)  
Anna Marcossi - cello (tracks 3, 4)

Recorded & mixed by Ewan Cowley in Dublin, Ireland  
Additional home recording by all musicians  
Mastered by Taylor Charles at Georgetown's Masters, Nashville TN, USA  
Special thanks to Michael James Ford, Raifree NI Chaisnigh, Paul Byrne,  
David Downes, Robin Stander & Tim Gahwin at Taylor Guitars

Join the mailing list at [www.motherlandsongs.com](http://www.motherlandsongs.com)



Styling by Paula Connolly  
Portrait photos by Ruth Hendry



Hear the debut EP on YouTube,  
Apple Music, Spotify...



# MOTHERLAND SONGS

*Words & music of struggle and celebration*



## US TOURING PARTNERS

Publicist - **Anita Daly, Daly Communications**, New York City

Tour Accountancy - **Phil Sarna, PS Business Management**, New York City

Visa / Legal services - **Barbara A. McCormick, McCormick Dooley Law**, Long Island, NY

Tour Management / Production - **Scotty Ross, Doobro Entertainment Corp**, Oakland, CA

## CREDITS

Producers - **Ewan Cowley / Michael James Ford**

Musical Director & Arranger / Guitar / Piano - **Ewan Cowley**

Lead Performer - **Edel Murphy**

Cello - **Rozzie Curlett / Michelle Mason**

Percussion - **Andy Reilly / Paul Byrne**

Styling - **Paula Goulding**

Portrait Photography - **Ruth Medjber**

Live Photography - **Paula Nicholson-Reilly**

## CONTACT

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@**motherlandsongs** on Instagram / Facebook

Scan the QR code to learn  
more about the show.

