

# Kendra Ward & Bob Bence

**Music from the Appalachian Tradition!**  
*Authentic Mountain Soul. Contemporary Virtuosity and Drive.*

“*Old-timey music at its best!*”  
– **Folk Artist News**

“*Performers such as Kendra Ward and Bob Bence have inspired a new generation of dedicated dulcimer and traditional music enthusiasts.*”  
– **The News, Beaumont, Texas**

**T**he music of Kendra Ward and Bob Bence has its roots deep in the mountains of Appalachia and it possesses a universal appeal that the duo has shared with audiences around the world for nearly 30 years.

Kendra is a musician, teacher, author, composer and performer with a lifetime of experience in traditional Appalachian arts. She has played dulcimer since the age of four, learning primarily from her Father and her Grandmother, and from her constant exposure to the fiddlers, banjo players, dancers and other traditional artists who call the Appalachian hills home.

Bob is an award-winning musician whose bold, powerful guitar style harkens back to the days of Riley Puckett and Roy Harvey, and whose professional credits include not only festivals and concert halls, but also comedy clubs and improv stages.

Together Kendra Ward and Bob Bence have earned a reputation as one of the most entertaining and influential traditional music duos in the nation. They have released ten recordings and are the authors of a number of DVDs and instruction books.



## *Workshops, Master Classes and Residency Activities*

*Kendra Ward and Bob Bence present workshops and master classes on a variety of musical instruments including: hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer and guitar. They also offer workshops on group arrangements, jamming, copyrights, music business, and a variety of other topics.*

*For schools, Kendra Ward and Bob Bence can present educational performances designed for both small groups and large assemblies.*

*Longer term residency programs are also available.*

  
**Upcreek Productions, Inc.**  
*THE FUTURE OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC!*

**For bookings contact:**  
**Upcreek Productions, Inc. – 740.388.6464**  
**email: [upcreek@dulcimertimes.com](mailto:upcreek@dulcimertimes.com)**  
**[www.dulcimertimes.com](http://www.dulcimertimes.com)**

## Media and Presenter Comments:

- “ *Kendra Ward is the best dulcimer player we have ever heard!* ”  
– **Ron Mason, Cincinnati Appalachian Festival**
- “ *The versatility they demonstrated speaks highly of their ability to not only be professional, but also creative, regardless of the circumstances.* ”  
– **Kingsley Meyer, University of Rio Grande**
- “ *Fast, furious and exciting! A great evening!* ”  
– **Twynham Folk Club, Christchurch, England**
- “ *Kendra is fast, powerful and has complete dynamic control. Bob’s guitar is the perfect compliment with lots of strength and interesting fill-ins.* ”  
– **Folk Artist News**
- “ *It is a fine collection, held together by the crisp dialogue between the two performers.* ” (*High Plains Rain* CD review)  
– **Dirty Linen magazine**
- “ *(4 bones) The energy and excitement of this duo is evident throughout the recording.* ” (*Dulcimer Country* CD review)  
– **Music Hound Essential Album Guide**

## Notable Festivals and Events:

- Walnut Valley Festival – Winfield, Kansas
- Summer Solstice Festival – Northridge, California
- Ohio State Fair – Columbus, Ohio
- Multi-Cultural Festival – Chandler, Arizona
- Kentucky Music Week – Louisville, Kentucky
- Cincinnati Appalachian Festival – Cincinnati, Ohio
- Southern California Dulcimer Heritage Festival – Culver City, California
- West Virginia Folk Festival – Glenville, West Virginia
- South Florida Fair – West Palm Beach, Florida
- Acoustic Brew Concert – State College, Pennsylvania
- East Lansing Dulcimer Festival – Lansing, Michigan
- Tidewater Friends of Folk Music Concert – Virginia Beach, Virginia
- International Concert/Workshop Tours – England, Scotland, Wales, Germany, Austria

## Discography:

- *Rides Again!* (2008)
- *High Plains Rain* (2000)
- *Dulcimer Country* (1996)
- *Some Glad Morning* (1994)
- *Hammered Dulcimer Special* (1992)
- *Hammered Dulcimer Christmas Sampler* (1992)
- *Down Yonder* (1990)
- *A Rose Between Two Thorns* (1988)
- *Beyond Bluegrass* (1984)
- *Hammered Dulcimer ... Bluegrass Style* (1983)

## Books & Publications:

- *Let’s Jam! Volume 4 - The Celtic Edition* (2011)
- *Hammered Dulcimer Cheat Sheet 2* (2011)
- *Count Your Blessings* (2008)
- *The Bowed Psaltery Handbook* (2008)
- *Let’s Jam! Volume 3 - The Gospel Edition* (2007)
- *Guitar Chord Cheat Sheet* (2006)
- *Let’s Jam! Volume 2* (2006)
- *Let’s Jam!* (2002)
- *Hammered Dulcimer Cheat Sheet* (2001)
- *Mountain Dulcimer Cheat Sheet (D-A-A Tuning)* (2001)
- *Mountain Dulcimer Cheat Sheet (D-A-D Tuning)* (2001)
- *The Dulcimer Times* magazine (1998 - 2001)
- *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* (1992)
- *That Old-Time Religion* (1990)
- *The Hammered Dulcimer Handbook, Book 1* (1988)

## Instruction Videos & DVD:

- *Learn “West Fork Gals!”* (2007)
- *Mountain Dulcimer Basics* (1999)
- *Playing With Arpeggios* (1998)
- *Hammered Dulcimer Basics* (1998)-

## Awards & Distinctions:

- Selected to Ohio Arts Council’s *Touring Artist Roster*. (2001 - Present)
- *The Videographer Award of Excellence Mountain Dulcimer Basics* DVD. (2000)
- *The Videographer Award of Excellence Playing With Arpeggios* DVD. (1999)
- *The Videographer Award of Excellence Hammered Dulcimer Basics* DVD. (1998)
- *The Communicator Crystal Award of Excellence The Dulcimer Times* magazine. (1998)
- *Ohio State Hammered Dulcimer Champion* (1981 and 1983)