13. Rattlin Bog (traditional)

I brought this song back from a trip to Ireland. My good friend (and singing partner since 1994) Erin Jacobs invited me to go with her (and her mom Teri and her Aunt Jo) back when we first started singing together. I took my guitar, she took her flute and we played at pubs, shops and homes from Dublin, across to Galway and back again. The journey was a gorgeous awakening for me. I went to the Hill of Tara, where I'd dreamed of going my whole life. I was hoping for some divine inspiration, and believe me I got it in abundance. It was a land of music, nature, family, fellowship and Guinness. And I loved every minute of it! Playing from this little songbook again was a great way to reminisce about my time in the home land, and it's perfect for this record since it takes a little bit of memory work (and great lung capacity) to get through it!

For the kid voices, I brought in all the Guittons: Anna, Jack and Josie. And yes, they truly are the SuperDupers. For the bass part, it was Kevin's idea to use a tuba. He knew of a great player at the school where he teaches. He was in the 11th grade at the time, his name is Jonathan Perkins and he was a total joy to work with- and what an excellent music reader! Mr. Wright did a great job with those band kids at ARC! The tuba reminded me of a polka feel which led me to the accordion. I got my accordion at Nashville Used about seven years ago. There's a terrific piano teacher I worked with at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music who was also known for being an amazing accordion player. When I got mine, I decided to take lessons from her. So I showed up for my first lesson with Karen Krueger and there was this crazy skinny guy in her office wearing liederhosen. She introduced us and said, "Here's your accordion lesson. I've just signed you up to play with *Das Polka Brueden* (I think that was their name! It meant the polka brothers). They've got a gig tonight at Bosco's. I'll show you how to hold the accordion correctly and then you're on your own." It was amazing! I swam in the deep end with those crazy polka brothers for a couple years, even did some weddings. It was fun to pull that hilarious instrument out, again. And before you turn your nose up at me, let me remind you that polka music may have a reputation for being ridiculous, but it is actually very difficult- and most importantly, always makes people laugh.

RATTLIN'BOG

CHORUS:
D G D A
Ho, ro, the rattlin' bog, the bog down in the valley-o
D G G A D
Ho, ro, the rattlin' bog, the bog down in the valley-o

V1 D A
Now in that bog there was a tree, a rare tree and a rattlin' tree
D
And the tree in the bog
D A D
And the bog down in the valley-o

CHORUS

V2
Now on that tree there was a branch, a rare branch and a rattlin' branch
And the branch on the tree
And the tree in the bog
And the bog down in the valley-o

CHORUS

etc until the last verse:
Now in that bird there was a song, a rare song and a rattlin' song
And the song in the bird
And the bird in the nest
And the nest on the limb
And the limb on the branch
And the branch on the tree
And the tree in the bog
And the bog down in the valley-o

CHORUS (twice)