

Janita Baker  
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Janita Baker has been a performing musician and teacher for almost 50 years and is best known for her solo performance on the mountain dulcimer. Through her unique style of fingerpicking she presents her audiences with a wide range of musical experiences including classical, blues, ragtime, swing, slack key and original instrumental pieces. Janita delights her listeners with a warm and personal sharing of her music and introduces to her audience the incredible complexity, variety and beauty of the mountain dulcimer.

A patient and gifted teacher, she has a "... kind and gentle spirit [which] endears dulcimer players to her almost immediately after the first meeting." She teaches all skill levels and has the ability to not only challenge an advanced player but support and encourage an absolute beginner while introducing them to the joys of the mountain dulcimer.

Along with her husband Robert, Janita builds Blue Lion dulcimers and guitars. Located near the town of Santa Margarita on the central coast of California, they began the company in 1977 and work full time building instruments which are renowned for their resonance, quality and beauty, and for the exquisite custom inlay work which is Janita's speciality. As a duo, the Bakers have released two recordings: *Walkin' Around Lucky* and their latest, *The Hot Rod Sleigh*, both of which received nominations as Folk Album and Christmas Album of the Year (respectively) from Just Plain Folks, an organization dedicated to independent recording labels.