Heartland Bouquet was written for the Heartland Dulcimer Festival and for the Heartland Presbyterian Center near Kansas City, where the festival is held. I once spent a magical week there teaching and playing music. I wrote this waltz one afternoon and performed it in my concert that same evening as a tribute to the people who came together and made good things happen during the festival. My intention was also to encourage my students to compose their own music for people and events that are special to them.

Piano player Tabby Finch and I had great fun with this tune, especially when deciding how to harmonize the Eb note in measure 28 while recording it for the CD Saving Trees. We were perverse enough to use a different chord each time through the tune. But my favorite was the Ab. I enjoy playing Heartland Bouquet with guitar or piano accompaniment to give strength to the chord progression. The recorded version has flute, fiddle, piano, and dulcimer.