



TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Cheryl Wheeler
- 3 Birds of Chicago
- 4 Matt The Electrician
- 5 Kate Campbell
- 6 Iris DeMent
- 7 Chris Trapper
- 7 Rebecca Frazier

OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

Over more than a quarter century, we've built more than just a non-profit concert series – we've built a musical community. And at the heart of this community is a dedicated group of volunteers.

Most arts organizations, even small ones, have at least a few paid staff members. Not us.

Six String Concerts has always been an all-volunteer run organization. That means that aside from the amazing artists we present and our 'best-in town' sound engineering, every function needed to keep us going is performed by a volunteer.

Many artists and agents have expressed their amazement that we're able to run such a smooth operation on purely volunteer-power. They know what all the hard work it takes to put on a show – from booking and promoting the shows, to stage set-up, to selling concessions, to managing the finances and much, much more.

For our volunteers, it's a labor of love.

A world of thanks to the many volunteers, past and present, who have helped Six String Concerts to grow into a nationally-recognized concert series known among the performing songwriter community as the gold standard of concert-presenting organizations.

We wouldn't be here without you.



GET READY FOR OUR 27TH SEASON

This season promises more of what you've come to expect from Six String Concerts – the finest of tried-and-true performing songwriters and introductions to the next generation of standout artists.

- **Cheryl Wheeler** – A Six String Concerts audience favorite! Strong poetry, complex melodies, clever wit.
- **Birds of Chicago** – Two of the most compelling new voices in North American Roots music.
- **Matt The Electrician** – Rootsy, quirky, acoustic pop.
- **Kate Campbell** – Literate songs that artfully skirt the border between country and rock.
- **Iris DeMent** – One of the most beloved and respected writers and singers in American music.

Read on to learn more about these amazing artists. And check our website – www.SixString.org – for the second half of our season which includes Kim Richey, harmonious trio Brother Sun and the much-requested return of Joe Crookston.



www.SixString.org



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DISCOUNTED STUDENT TICKETS

Students with a valid ID can purchase discounted tickets through any of the above methods. Be sure to mention you're a student, and have your ID ready at the door.

DISCOUNTED YOUTH TICKETS

To encourage all the future folk fans out there to nurture an impeccable taste in good music, we offer discounted tickets for everyone under 18!

DISCOUNTED SEASON TICKETS

Save even more on ticket prices and service charges with our full and half season ticket packages.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

- Purchase tickets
- Learn about upcoming shows
- View concert photos
- Browse an archive of past performances
- Link to artist websites & song samples

www.SixString.org

CHERYL WHEELER WITH CHRIS TRAPPER

Friday, September 26 / \$24 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Strong poetry, complex melodies, clever wit.

With Cheryl Wheeler, the question is always, "What will she say next?"

One minute she's singing about her cat speaking in French, then she shifts syllabic inflections on the pronunciation of the word "Potato", and then leaves you on the verge of tears with a relationship song. She will talk about some serious current event, and then sing a song that will have the audience howling with laughter.

Wheeler's songs are often emotional portraits of people, leaving the listener with the impression of knowing the characters, with the effect of being pulled into the song rather than standing outside and observing. Other songs by Cheryl are hilarious situation comedies.

Wheeler first performed professionally at a Maryland restaurant, but soon graduated to clubs in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas. In 1976, she moved to Rhode Island, where she became the protégé and bass player for country-folk singer-songwriter Jonathan Edwards.

Her songs have been recorded by Dan Seals, Peter Paul and Mary, Kenny Loggins, Garth Brooks, Suzy Boggus, Melanie, Bette

Midler, Sylvia, Kathy Mattea, and a host of others. She has also been seen wandering across the continent with the Four Bitchin' Babes.

Wheeler has been recording albums since 1984 but about half of the songs she performs in concert have never been recorded. Her most recent release, 2012's *Live at the Triple Door*, featuring Kenny White is a complete concert including the stories and patter between songs.

Scott Alarik, author of *Deep Community* says, "More confidently and beautifully than ever before, she proves that the poet and the comic are one and the same."

It's a cavalcade of entertainment all wrapped up in the person of one Cheryl Wheeler.

See page 7 for opener Chris Trapper

“ A rare gift for writing songs with lush melodies and lyrics of incredible beauty. On the other hand, she is a master of quick wit. ”

— Fame



BIRDS OF CHICAGO

Friday, October 10 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Two of the most compelling new voices in North American Roots music.

Birds of Chicago is a collective based around JT Nero and Allison Russell. Whether touring as a duo or with the full family band, Nero and Russell have emerged as two of the most compelling new voices in North American Roots music.

For several years Russell and Nero's respective bands, Po' Girl (Vancouver, BC) and JT and the Clouds (Chicago, IL), collaborated extensively. But on 2011's *Mountains/Forests*, released under the JT Nero banner, they tapped into the true, bewitching power of their voices together on an entire record.

The album also featured the full cast of characters that would round out the Birds of Chicago ensemble; the Clouds and Michelle McGrath, the luminous singer and picker from the hidden hills of Southeast Ohio.

Naturally, a great deal of excitement for the self-titled debut, which was released in 2012. *Birds of Chicago* has been called "refreshing and rewarding" by the *Chicago Sun Times*. The album received critical raves and won them new fans on both sides of the Atlantic.

Nero's fractured country-soul voice wrapped in Russell's silver and gold tones, is a fine thing. Not too perfect, not at all saccharine, you'll hear echoes of mountain gospel, street corner doo-wop, and classic soul. Accompanied by just a banjo and a guitar, it's haunting. Fueled by the band, it's a full tilt revival.

It's familiar and strange stuff – the everyday and the magical.

“Some of the finest poetry and roots melodies you'll hear in this lifetime.”

– No Depression



SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN PART BY:



Troubadour is published twice annually by Six String Concerts, Inc., a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting regional and national acoustic performing songwriters not otherwise heard in Columbus. The concerts are held primarily in smoke- and alcohol-free environments which provide mutual satisfaction to the audience and artists.

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MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

Friday, November 7 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Rootsy, quirky, acoustic pop.

Once upon a time, there was a young man named **Matt Sever**. He lived in Austin, TX, and he worked as a journeyman electrician.

Every morning he would go to work and wire houses all day long in the blistering Texas heat. Then, sometimes with no time to shower or change his clothes, he would go straight to the bars and nightclubs of Austin to play his songs for whomever would listen. So they called him Matt The Electrician. Eventually, Matt quit his job to spend more time writing and playing songs, but the name stuck.

Matt has been a finalist in the Mountain Stage Newsong Festival, The Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and The Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, and won the Texas Grammy Songwriting Contest.

Whether he's singing a story about the ordeal of replacing his car battery while on the road in Texas or turning on its head a cover song you thought you knew, you are instantly drawn

in by his clever lyrics, sincere delivery and joyful approach to his craft.

Of his songwriting style, Matt says, "When I get an idea, I usually just sing it into the recorder on my iPhone, or jot a few words down on a Post It note, and then do most of my writing after everyone is asleep at night. I'm a big fan of writing entire songs on Post It notes. It's not environmentally friendly, but it's just the way my brain works."

Matt's most thoughtful moments mirror Townes Van Zandt. They shadow Guy Clark. Haunt every great Texas storyteller with an eye for triumph and truth. Still, every lyrical twist and turn maintains his own unique style and substance.

His most recent release *It's a Beacon, It's a Bell* shines with simplicity, offering several uniquely personal and autobiographical portraits brimming with universal truths.



“ Sever brings a delightfully different energy to the often hidebound folk scene; electrifies it, actually. ”

— L.A. Daily News

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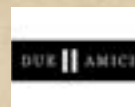
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KATE CAMPBELL

Friday, December 5 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Literate songs that artfully skirt the border between country and rock.

Kate Campbell comes upon her Southern soul honestly.

The daughter of a Baptist preacher, Campbell was born in New Orleans but grew up in Sledge, Mississippi, a small Delta town 50 miles south of Memphis. Her youth found her singing from the Baptist hymnal and embarking on a spiritual journey that would help shape her view of the civil rights movement, a cause about which she sings with heartfelt commitment.

The carefully crafted lyrics of Campbell's songs are inspired by her social sensibility and informed by her familiarity with Southern literature and knowledge of Southern history, in which she earned a Masters degree. For a time she taught college history in Nashville while also honing her songwriting skills.

Campbell took up piano at age seven before switching to the guitar as a teenager during the folk-rock heyday of the '70s. Since making her recording debut in 1995 with the heart-rending *Songs From The Levee*, Campbell has put together a body of work matched only

(perhaps) by Emmylou in consistency, Lucinda Williams in terms of pure, wrenching, honest self-examination and self-revelation and no one for its sheer display of broad-based, intimate artfulness.

Some of her songs draw on comparisons between historical figures and how they in fact have something in common. She faces the complex issues of race, religion, and human relationships, skillfully blending history, memories, and music to make unflinching statements that express her vision.

On her most recent release, *1000 Pound Machine*, Campbell returns to the instrument of her childhood. Campbell's subtle piano and clear vocals are complimented by sparse arrangements featuring Will Kimbrough's consummate guitar playing and soulful sounds from the legendary Spooner Oldham.



“With a literate eye for detail and metaphor, Campbell weaves her country-folk tales like a masterly storyteller.”

— Memphis Commercial Appeal



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IRIS DEMENT WITH REBECCA FRAZIER

Friday, January 16 / \$28 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

One of the most beloved and respected writers and singers in American music.

No one sounds like **Iris DeMent**. She is a musical treasure with a voice as unique as a southern skylark.

Iris DeMent, the youngest of 14 children in a strong Pentecostal family, was born in Paragould, Arkansas, and raised in California.

Something of a late bloomer, she didn't write her first song until the age of 25. Her first three albums, released in the early 90's received much critical acclaim and established her as one of the most beloved and respected writers and singers in American music.

Her first release, *Infamous Angel*, put the world on notice that DeMent was a promising and talented artist. *My Life* earned a Grammy nomination in the Contemporary Folk category. Merle Haggard encouraged her to step outside of her lyrical comfort zone on her 3rd album. On *The Way I Am*, she tackled a variety of high-profile topics including politics and religion, and earned another Grammy nomination.

The gospel musical tradition of her youth shines through her work. Pentecostal hymns regularly show up on her set lists. In 2004, DeMent released *Lifeline*, a collection of

hymns that included her rendition of "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." In 2010 the Coen Brothers chose that song for the closing credits of their remake of the classic western *True Grit*.

Although DeMent's recording career has endured long periods of inactivity, she has never been out of the public's eye. Iris has lent her voice to a litany of projects by some of the biggest names in music.

In 2012, DeMent released an exquisite album of new material. *Sing The Delta* tackles the paradox of losing one's faith while at the same time loving the comfort and inspiration it can provide. The songs evoke emotions of searching and yearning, all the while wrenching passion out of things long gone lost. With the long awaited arrival of *Sing The Delta*, DeMent continues to her enduring contribution to the cultural canon.

See page 7 for opener Rebecca Frazier



“ She's the best singer I've ever heard. ”

– Merle Haggard

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CHRIS TRAPPER

Opening for Cheryl Wheeler

Chris Trapper is a songwriter of the highest caliber.

Trapper began his career as the front man for late-90's alternative rock band The Push Stars. With four CD releases and several high profile national tours, including a run with Matchbox Twenty, The Push Stars served to establish Chris as an authentic talent.

As the band members went separate ways, Trapper took the acoustic route. His songs can best be described as lyrically driven roots pop with a knack for telling everyday stories filled with extraordinary characters. Chris can boast high profile film placements including *There's Something About Mary* and *The Devil Wears Prada* as well as significant television placements including *Malcolm In The Middle* and a coveted placement in George Clooney's final episode of *ER*.



“ Classic pop perfection. ”

– The New York Times

REBECCA FRAZIER

Opening for Iris DeMent

For bluegrass artist **Rebecca Frazier**, the guitar has always been a means of transporting her, whether to a different state of mind, to a campfire bluegrass circle, or onto the stage of one of the hundred-plus festivals at which she has performed.

During an eight-year stay in Colorado, Rebecca co-founded Hit & Run Bluegrass, an award-winning, Boulder-based outfit, which made history by becoming the first band to win both prestigious band competitions at Rockygrass (2002) and Telluride Bluegrass Festival (2003).

By 2007, Rebecca had married and relocated to Nashville, where Hit & Run took advantage of a more centralized touring base. Months later, her husband John was offered a position in the John Cowan Band. “I knew I couldn't make the leap into motherhood while I was practically living on the interstate and at festivals.” A baby boy was born and Hit & Run continued to tour, albeit not full-time. Rebecca continued her studio work and she used her spare time to write.



“ Rebecca Frazier is a triple threat. She is a wonderfully engaging singer, a compelling songwriter and an accomplished guitarist to boot. ”

– Allison Brown



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2014-2015 SEASON - FIRST HALF

★ **Performance Schedule** ★

} **CHERYL WHEELER** with The Chris Trapper
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 - \$24 ADVANCE

} **BIRDS OF CHICAGO**
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 - \$23 ADVANCE

} **MATT THE ELECTRICIAN**
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - \$22 ADVANCE

} **KATE CAMPBELL**
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 - \$22 ADVANCE

} **IRIS DEMENT** with Rebecca Frazier
 FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 - \$28 ADVANCE



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SHOWS ARE AT 8PM & TAKE PLACE AT:
 Columbus Performing Arts Center • 549 Franklin Avenue, Columbus, OH

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