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★★★ A LETTER FROM KIM ★★★

Home Sweet Home

As James Keelaghan completed his final encore to close our 21st season last May, we didn't know where our next concert would be held.

Due to budget cuts by the City of Columbus, the Columbus Performing Arts Center, our home since 2005, stopped accepting new contracts and was at risk of being closed for good.

Well, things couldn't have worked out better.

The Phoenix Theatre for Children swooped in to manage the CPAC, so we're again scheduling shows at our home venue. We'll return to the CPAC in September to kick off the season with Slaid Cleaves. Phew!

But the long lead times involved in booking top artists meant we had to find an alternate venue until we knew the CPAC would be available. So our October 17 show featuring Storyhill will take place at the new McConnell Arts Center of Worthington. This new theater is located at 160 W. Dublin Granville Road in Worthington (just 1/2 mile east of SR 315 - next to Thomas Worthington High School).

The "MAC" is still under construction, and we believe it will be completed in time for the show, but please stay tuned to our website and emails in the event of a venue change.

After some time of uncertainty, we all finally can focus on the music. And this season's lineup is exceptional – a blend of nationally-recognized veterans and up-and-coming talented artists. Read on to learn more.

Now for something I didn't think I could say just a few months ago...

"See you in September!"

KIM WILSON
President,
Six String Concerts

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Help make the Six String Concerts experience even better. Tell us what you like and what we could improve.

If you didn't take the online survey we sent via email earlier this summer, please take a moment to share your opinion.

Visit www.SixString.org/Survey.htm

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\$5 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!

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

SLAID CLEAVES WITH GURF MORLIX

Friday, September 25

Slaid Cleaves. Grew up in Maine. Lives in Texas. Writes songs. Makes Records. Travels around. Tries to be good.

That's how Slaid Cleaves' official bio starts, and it tells most of his story. What it understates is that he has become one of Austin's most gifted singer-songwriters – and all the work that it took to get there.

Cleaves' career as a performer began as a busker, or street singer, on the streets of Cork, Ireland where he was attending a semester of college. After a stint with The Moxie Men, a rock band from Portland Maine, Cleaves moved to Austin, Texas in 1991, and promptly won the prestigious Kerrville New Folk competition the following year.

But success didn't come without trial. He toured the country for more than a decade in a beat-up Dodge Dart. He took odd jobs as a pizza delivery man, a meter reader and a groundskeeper. He earned money intermittently as a pharmaceutical test subject – taking medications for menopause, diabetes, bed-wetting, irregular heartbeat, and dermatitis – just to pay the rent.

By the late 1990s, Cleaves was frustrated as a musician. Music, he recalls, "was looking like a pathetic hobby and not a career." Getting deeper in debt, he thought to himself, "these songs of mine have to be not only a little better, but an order of magnitude better."

"I eventually learned — or decided — that my job was not to tell people how I felt, but to tell them how they felt," says Cleaves. He began to achieve national prominence with the release of *Broke Down*, which climbed the Americana charts, and he hit a new plateau with *Wishbones* in 2004. "So I started to craft stories to elicit a certain response. How are people going to remember me? I need to affect

them. I need to make them cry, to pierce their heart. The songs have to be piercing, and they have to be brutal. That's what I went for."

Earlier this year, Cleaves released his first album of original songs in five years, *Everything You Love Will Be Taken Away*, which was eagerly anticipated and well received by fans and critics alike.

See Page 7 for opener Gurf Morlix



“I’m glad I found Slaid Cleaves, because my life would have been poorer without him.”

– Stephen King

STORYHILL WITH LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE

Saturday, October 17

The duo Storyhill began in Bozeman, Montana, where Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson grew up and started performing together as teenagers. Both were musical from the get-go, singing with choirs, playing in bands and mastering many musical instruments. What began as a 7th grade experiment has made them close friends and lifelong musical collaborators.

They recorded their first tape in 1989 as "Chris & Johnny", with Chris playing piano and John on guitar. The two temporarily parted ways, but continued to focus on music. Chris went to Spain where he took up guitar and focused on his songwriting. Meanwhile, John was making a name for himself on the campus of St. Olaf College, where he was pursuing a music degree in violin performance.

John got regular gigs in town, and encountered such success selling his and Chris' first album that he encouraged Chris to join him so they could play together. Chris did, and together they developed a strong fan following on campus and in the nearby Twin Cities as an acoustic songwriting duo. They then toured the

country, playing the college circuit. Exhausted from the travel and finding themselves pulled in different directions, Chris and John embarked on a series of farewell concerts (much to fans' dismay). Chris went west to Seattle; John went east, moving to Norway for a year.

Storyhill fans clamored for more, so Chris and John played a few sold-out reunion shows in Minnesota and Montana. Discovering the old chemistry was still there along with some new creative energy, they reformed.

With infectious melodies and captivating performances, Storyhill has become a favorite at clubs and theaters across the country and has earned high praise from fellow musicians and critics. Their latest CD is a perfect blend of Americana, folk and pop and recalls the early alt-country sounds of The Jayhawks.

See Page 7 for opener Lucy Wainwright Roche



“ Their sound recalls the harmonious interplay of Simon and Garfunkel and the acoustic juice of the Indigo Girls. ”

– Billboard Magazine



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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DALA WITH TANYA DAVIS

Friday, November 13

Amanda Walther and Sheila Carabine formed Dala shortly after meeting in a Scarborough, Ontario high school music class. The duo's name was formed by combining the last two letters of their first names.

The two best friends, who wrote their first song together in 2002, have since performed at Toronto's legendary Massey Hall a total of six times. They quickly have become darlings of the Canadian music scene, and are now poised to bring their fresh brand of acoustic pop music to the world.

Drawing upon influences like The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young and Bob Dylan, Dala write songs that are both catchy and insightful. Amanda's ethereal soprano voice blends seamlessly with Sheila's velvety alto, creating the lush harmonies that have become their trademark.

Dala's last two albums, 2006's *Angels and Thieves* and 2007's *Who Do You Think You Are* earned them a total of four Canadian Folk Music Award nominations. Their videos have been in rotation on Bravo, CMT, Much More Music and MTV, and their songs have been featured in shows like CTV's "Flashpoint" and The Movie Network's "Regenesis".

Dala's new album *Everyone Is Someone* was released in June, and brings together all the elements that set this talented duo apart. Now bringing their talents south of the border. Dala was the only Canadian act invited to perform at the 50th anniversary of the Newport Folk Festival earlier this year.

See Page 7 for opener Tonya Davis



“...the angels of folk music. Ethereal, eloquent and downright beautiful, the music they create is faultlessly performed.” – Exclaim!

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CARRIE NEWCOMER WITH CHUCK E. COSTA

Saturday, December 5

Carrie Newcomer is one of contemporary folk's leading performing songwriters. A native Midwesterner, Newcomer was born in Southern Michigan and raised in Indiana, which is still her home. She graduated from Purdue University with a degree in visual art and education.

Her career has spanned nearly 3 decades, beginning in the early '80s as part of the folk group Stone Soup before she branched out on her own in 1988 and steadily began earning attention and respect. 2008 was an exceptional year for Newcomer, as she earned Folkwax Magazine awards for Artist of the Year and Album of the Year for her latest release *The Geography of Light*. She sings about serious subjects with clarity and elegance, and a healthy measure of good humor and self-awareness, with a voice the *Austin Statesman* has called "as rich as Godiva chocolate." Her music resonates with Appalachian and classical influences, and is punctuated with adept guitar work and powerful but intimate vocals.

Newcomer, a Quaker, cuts across secular and spiritual boundaries and is one of a relatively few well-known singer/songwriters working within the progressive spiritual continuum. The *Geography of Light* was in part influenced by Newcomer's friendships and recent collaborations with leading authors and theologians, including Parker J. Palmer, Phillip Gulley, Jim Wallis, Scott Russell Sanders and Barbara Kingsolver. Her relationship with this community influenced many of the album's compelling themes. In this album, as in her career, Newcomer is one of a growing number of artistic voices addressing a shift in our culture, insisting that the religious right does not speak for everyone of faith.

Newcomer has worked with many notable artists throughout her career. She toured with Alison Krauss and Union Station in Europe and the U.S. and recorded the title track of her 2002 *The Gathering of Spirits* album with Krauss. Krauss went on to introduce Nickel Creek to Newcomer's song "I Should've Known Better", which the band recorded on their Grammy-winning, gold-selling album *This Side* (produced by Krauss). In recent years, she has begun running workshops on writing, faith and vocation and activism and the arts.



See Page 7 for opener Chuck E. Costa

“ I love Carrie Newcomer. She writes and sings about what is most personal to her and in doing so she speaks to the wider world. ” – Mary Chapin Carpenter



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JONATHAN BYRD & DIANA JONES

Saturday, January 9

Individually, Jonathan Byrd and Diana Jones are talented. Together, they're special. Byrd and Jones recorded an album as duo "ByrdJones" in 2007, digging deep into their Appalachian and gospel roots.

DIANA JONES offers listeners a rare gift of original songs with uncommon depth and beauty infused with time-honored values of traditional American music. Her musical style has been compared to Iris DeMent and Gillian Welch, and the Chicago Tribune says Jones "just may be the best American songwriter most people have never heard of."

Among other accolades, Jones was nominated for Emerging Artist of the Year and her song "Pony" was nominated for "Song of the Year" by the North American Folk Alliance in 2006.

Adopted as an infant and raised in New York, Diana Jones left home at 15 in search of her roots. Unlike her friends, Diana was attracted to the music of Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline, as well as contemporary artists Emmylou Harris and Dolly Parton. It wasn't until she was reunited with her birth family and the music of the Eastern Tennessee hills some years later, that she discovered why that music had always moved her. In fact, her grandfather, Robert Lee Maranville, as a young man performed with Chet Atkins, among others.

Each of Diana's original songs are informed by the themes that have run through her life—love, loss and redemption—bringing to mind Emily Dickinson and Loretta Lynn in the same breath.

JONATHAN BYRD is a native North Carolinian who grew up singing in the Southern Baptist church where his father preached and his mother played piano. After four years in the Navy, he returned home to play in rock bands. It was at an old-time fiddle festival in the mountains of southwest Virginia where his writing began to change. Assimilating the sounds of southern traditional music, Byrd wrote new songs in an ancient style.

Byrd became a full-time musician in 2000, and quickly has earned the respect of fellow musicians and critics alike. He was named a Kerrville New Folk winner in 2003. He has collaborated with several other artists, including recording an album and touring with world music duo Dromedary.

Byrd recounts the recording of *Radio Soul* with Jones: "We went to a barn, sat down in two chairs, and recorded the whole album in 7 hours. That was my favorite recording experience ever, seriously."



“(Diana has) an old-timey vibe that never sounds fussy, ... in a voice subtly shaded by the high lonesome sound.”

– Chicago Tribune

“What a treat to hear someone so deeply rooted in tradition, yet growing in his own beautiful way.”

– Tom Paxton



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GURF MORLIX

Opening for Slaid Cleaves, September 25

Gurf Morlix is an acclaimed guitarist and producer with credits to his resume that include Lucinda Williams, Blaze Foley, Mary Gauthier and Slaid Cleaves - just part of a career that has spanned three decades. In 2000, he made his first solo record, which marked an added career focus on songwriting. Since then, Morlix has released five more solo recordings, including 2009's *Last Exit to Happyland*. In 2004, Morlix was added to the Austin Music Awards Hall of Fame.

“Gurf Morlix is the musical equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife.”

– Uncommon Music



TANYA DAVIS

Opening for Dala, November 13

With an instinctual ear and the vernacular of a poet, Davis makes wordy music built on unique arrangements that fend off genre and highlight both musicianship and passion. That passion has earned Davis four nominations for both the PEI and Nova Scotia Music Awards. She was the regional winner of the 2006 RadioStar songwriting competition and was awarded Best Author/Poet in The Coast's Best of Halifax readers' survey in 2007.

“One of Halifax's most mesmerizing performers!”

– The Coast



LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE

Opening for Storyhill, October 17

As the daughter of Loudon Wainwright III and Suzzy Roche (of The Roches), perhaps music was in Lucy Wainwright Roche's blood. When half-brother Rufus Wainwright invited Lucy to sing backup on his tour, she changed her focus from her career as an elementary school teacher to fulfill her destiny as a songwriter and performer. Since then, she has made her own mark as a Falcon Ridge Emerging Artist winner in 2008 and Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk winner in 2009.

“Her clear, steady voice feels like a beacon of sorts, slicing straight through the room.”

– New York Times



CHUCK E. COSTA

Opening for Carrie Newcomer, December 5

Chuck E. Costa is a modern day troubadour with a dulcet voice and emotive lyrics. Since earning a degree in philosophy from the University of Colorado, the native New Yorker returned to the East Coast where he has grown into a nationally-touring regular of the club, coffeehouse and festival circuits. Costa won the 2008 Rocky Mountain Folks Fest Showcase, and was named a top Emerging Artist from the 2009 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

“...sensitive, introspective... inspired.”

– NY Times





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2009/10 SEASON - FIRST HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

} **Slaid Cleaves with Gurf Morlix**

Friday, September 25 - Columbus Performing Arts Center

} **Storyhill with Lucy Wainwright Roche**

Saturday, October 17 - McConnell Arts Center

} **Dala with Tanya Davis**

Friday, November 13 - Columbus Performing Arts Center

} **Carrie Newcomer with Chuck E. Costa**

Saturday, December 5 - Columbus Performing Arts Center

} **Jonathan Byrd & Diana Jones**

Saturday, January 9 - Columbus Performing Arts Center



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