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## ★★★ A LETTER FROM KIM ★★★

## The Six String Concerts Community

I'm happy to report that last season was one of the most successful in the history of Six String Concerts.

At our annual Volunteer Picnic earlier this summer, as more than 60 people gathered to celebrate, and play music, I realized that over the past 22 years, we have built more than an organization.

We've built a community that includes:

- **An Audience** – that has stuck with us through the years and trusts us to introduce them to new artists
- **Artists** – who love the knowledgeable, appreciative audience, fantastic sound, and the free massage!
- **Sponsors & Supporters** – who help keep our concerts affordable
- **Volunteers** – who work tirelessly to make it all possible

Our community has grown so much over the years because when people come to their first Six String Concert, they come back for more.

So, keep enjoying the music, and keep being an ambassador for our community.

KIM WILSON  
President,  
Six String Concerts

## ★★★ SURVEY RESPONSE ★★★

Each summer we conduct a survey to learn how we're doing and what we can do better. Here are some highlights:

- Over 85% of you said you'd come to a show on a night other than Friday or Saturday. That's great, because we've booked The Wailin' Jennys – a fantastic band from Winnipeg – for Sunday, October 10 at 7:30.
- A few of you mentioned that the Will Call ticket process is difficult. Good news – we're now able to offer a "Print At Home" option for tickets.

If you haven't yet taken our online survey, please take a moment to share your opinion at:  
[www.SixString.org/Survey.htm](http://www.SixString.org/Survey.htm)

## THINGS TO REMEMBER...

### TO PURCHASE TICKETS

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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.

### \$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](http://www.SixString.org)

# GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV &

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

*We begin the season with our "Trust Us Show of the Year" - a co-bill of two great young artists who recently caught our ear. It's part of our mission to introduce you to great talent and help expand their audience. This show is what it's all about.*

Born in South Africa, Gregory Alan Isakov's family immigrated to the US in opposition to apartheid.

"My parents took a lot of risks in leaving," Isakov said. "The experience instilled in me the feeling that life is quality- not quantity-based." He was seven when his family settled in the Philadelphia area, a time he describes as challenging for the family, though he personally felt at home in his new multi-cultural environment. Since that time he's been a traveler. "I've lived in so many different places; I don't feel indigenous to anywhere."

Isakov was raised on his parents' music collection that consisted of two records, *Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest Hits* and *We Are The World*. He says, "I listened to those records a thousand times each." He played jazz saxophone at school but eventually gravitated to his older brother's electric guitar. "I think it stuck because I never took lessons—and there was no teacher in my head when I played."

As a teen he attended folk festivals and says Bruce Springsteen's *The Ghost of Tom Joad* changed his life. "That was a big one for me. There was a mood to the record I was completely blown away by. Listening to these writers closely, one day I had the realization that these people had no idea what a big part of my life they were and how they'd created the soundtrack to it." It wasn't long after his epiphany that Isakov began to create his own music.

Isakov moved to Colorado in 1999 to study horticulture and simultaneously embarked on a career as an acoustic singer-songwriter. He soon caught the attention of Americana singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile who liked

what she heard and passed on Isakov's music to Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls. "He's a really great writer and really raw," says Ray. "His voice is just putting it out there. There's no affectation or pretension. It's like punk folk."

In 2008, the Denver publication *Westword* named him their Best Acoustic Folk Artist. The previous year he was given the paper's Best of Denver Singer-Songwriter award; they called him "a rootsier Glen Phillips channeling Kelly Joe Phelps."

“Strong, subtle, a lyrical genius.”

—Boulder Weekly



# MATT THE ELECTRICIAN



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

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, Sever quit his job to spend more time writing and playing songs, but the name stuck.

Sever 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.

We discovered Matt at this year's International Folk Alliance conference, and we became instant fans. Whether he's singing a story about the ordeal of finding a 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.

In a recent interview, he described his first paying gig at age 15. "I was sitting in the Bittersweet Coffee Shop in Pacific Grove, California, and there was a guitar hanging on the wall. The owner asked if I could play a song. I only knew one song, 'Rocky Raccoon' by the Beatles, so I played it, and she gave me a sandwich, a cup of coffee, and a weekly gig, which I played till I was 18.

Of his songwriting style, he 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."



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

— L.A. Daily News



SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN PART BY:



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# THE WAILIN' JENNY'S

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

The Wailin' Jennys began as a happy accident in 2002, when Nicky Mehta, Ruth Moody, and Cara Luft played together for a one-time-only performance at a guitar shop in Winnipeg.

They had such obvious chemistry on stage and enjoyed themselves so immensely that they decided to pursue this new musical union. Luft left the band to return to her solo career and was ultimately replaced by Brooklyn-based Heather Masse. Although known primarily as an acoustic outfit, The Wailin' Jennys have a wide range of musical backgrounds that have formed their musical sensibilities.

Soprano Ruth Moody (vocals, guitar, accordion, banjo, bodhrán) is a classically trained vocalist and pianist who first came on the scene as an accomplished, versatile singer of traditional and Celtic music.

Mezzo Nicky Mehta (vocals, guitar, harmonica, drums, ukulele), who was nominated for a Canadian Music Award for her 2002 solo album *Weather Vane*, is a trained dancer raised on everything from rock to classical music and heavily influenced by alternative pop.

Alto Heather Masse (vocals, upright bass) comes steeped in both bluegrass and jazz traditions. She is a Jazz Voice graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and also has performed with the Wayfaring Strangers, Joy Kills Sorrow, and Heather & The Barbarians.

In 2004, The Wailin' Jennys' released their first full-length album, *40 Days*, to great critical acclaim, and in 2005 it won them a Juno Award for Roots & Traditional Album of the Year.



Bolstered by their frequent appearances on Garrison Keillor's public radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, The Jennys have exploded onto the international roots music scene, performing at packed venues across North America and throughout the world.

Their CD *Firecracker* was nominated for a Juno Award and won a 2007 Folk Alliance Award for Contemporary Release of the Year. It charted for over 56 weeks on the Billboard charts and established The Jennys as the premiere act on today's folk/roots scene.

With their varying backgrounds, each of the Jennys is unique in her individual expression. Together they forge a unified folk-pop sound, all delivered with the irresistible vocal power of three.

“Some of the most pitch-perfect, gorgeous harmonies you're likely to hear.”  
 — Review M Magazine, Australia

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# RANI ARBO & DAISY MAYHEM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

So, what's a daisy mayhem? Wicked grooves, sublime lead singing, great harmonies, sparkling original songs, and a deep repertoire that spans 200 years of American music. It's four people who share an irresistible chemistry on stage. It's an unusually gleeful string band that celebrates both tradition and improvisation and that stumps the categorizers.

Rani Arbo is the fiddler, lead singer and founder of daisy mayhem. With a bewitching, expressive alto that is equal parts choirgirl, flirty teenager, and world-weary woman, she navigates swing tunes, funky call-and-response songs, and ballads with unusual honesty and ease.

Steeped in a background of choral singing, Arbo also spent years with a honkytonk band, a Balkan rock band, and folk-bluegrass band Salamander Crossing. A cellist by training, her swampy, self-taught fiddling draws from swing, blues, and old-time music.

Andrew Kinsey (Double Bass, Banjo, Vocals) has been Arbo's singing partner for over fifteen years. His rich baritone, generous spirit, and rock-solid bass playing keep daisy mayhem glued together.

Anand Nayak (Guitar, Vocals) has a rare gift for arranging and a gutsy guitar style that draws from a century's worth of jazz, funk, blues and folk masters.

Scott Kessel (Percussion, Vocals) was once a regular kit drummer - but in daisy mayhem he pilots the "Drumship Enterprise," a recycled drum kit comprised of a cardboard box, cat food tins, a Danish butter cookie tin, and a suitcase. Kessel mixes up American rock and pop beats with African, Afro-Cuban, New Orleans, and South American rhythms to create the foundation of daisy mayhem's unmistakable groove.



*The Boston Globe* described their music as "neo old-timey with cosmopolitan splashes of contemporary pop and jazz." It's an exuberant mix of musical idioms, held together by superb musicianship, impeccable taste, and the band's charismatic vocals. A stage show dips into country blues, vintage swing, modern songwriter fare, and Appalachian fiddle tunes and songs. It's a bracing fusion.

Start with a fiddle, a guitar, and a standup bass. Add a cardboard box with a suitcase bass drum and tin can cymbals, played by an ex-rock and zydeco drummer. Over that fine groove, hang Arbo's expressive alto, seamless four-part harmonies, and a splash of banjo and ukulele, and you have it.

This is a band that picks up what's lying around - from tin cans to traditional music - and creates something new.

*“Explodes with energy and relaxed good humor.”*

– *Vintage Guitar Review*



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# DAVID FRANCEY WITH AMELIA CURRAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

Scottish-born Canadian David Francey is recognized as one of today's finest singer-songwriters.

Francey was born in 1954 in Ayrshire, Scotland, where as a paperboy he got his first taste of the working life. He learned to read at an early age, and by eleven was devouring the newspapers he delivered. This helped establish his interest in politics and world events while developing the social conscience that forms the backdrop of his songs.

He was twelve when his family immigrated to Toronto. He says he can trace his love of the land, the history, and the people of his adopted country to weekend family drives exploring southern Ontario. Music played a large part in these family outings. They sang traditional Scottish tunes as they drove through the Canadian countryside. Dad and sister Muriel sang melody, while mother and David sang harmonies.

His attachment to Canada grew with travel. He hitched across the country three times, then thumbed his way to the Yukon. This attachment surfaces in his songs of rail lines, farms, and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. He grew to understand the people while working in Toronto train yards, the Yukon bush, and as a carpenter in the Eastern Townships.

Francey's experiences in working-class life strongly influenced his 1999 debut, *Torn Screen Door*, which features songs such as

“A consummate craftsman... David Francey is one of the biggest stars of Canadian folk Music.” —SOCAN Words and Music Magazine

“The Gypsy Boys”, “Hard Steel Mill” and “The Working Poor.” Other musical themes include admiration of the natural beauty of the Canadian landscape, and traditional folk themes of love and loss.

His 2009 album *Seaway* is a collaboration with Mike Ford of Moxy Frivous. It is a collection of songs inspired by their two-week voyage on M.S. Algoville, a 750-foot bulk carrier of the Algoma Central Laker fleet. They witnessed firsthand life onboard a working vessel as they sailed from Montreal to Thunder Bay and back along the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the majestic inland sea of the Great Lakes.

In concert David is a singer and a storyteller. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following. Francey has been awarded three Junos and the 2007 SOCAN Folk Music Award, which is given to the member whose works achieved the year's highest number of performances in domestic radio, pay audio and concerts.

*See page 7 for opener Amelia Curran*



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# AMELIA CURRAN

Opening for David Francey, January 14

Amelia Curran is a highly-regarded performer and songwriter from eastern Canada.

Curran started playing guitar and writing songs as a teenager and eventually dropped out of university in order to busk on the streets of her native St. John's, Newfoundland. Nearly a decade ago, she left home and settled in the mainland city of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In addition to being a musician, she is also a playwright and actor, and has had her plays performed in fringe festivals. Curran has been nominated for several East Coast Music Awards, and earlier this year she won the Juno award for Roots and Traditional Album of the Year (Solo) for her latest release, *Hunter, Hunter*.

“Amelia Curran could very well be a poet, as her lyrical perception borders on unmasked vulnerability and contemplative wistfulness.”

– Chart Magazine



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2010/11 SEASON - FIRST HALF

★ **Performance Schedule** ★

} **GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV & MATT THE ELECTRICIAN**  
 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **THE WAILIN' JENNYNS**  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 @ 7:30 p.m. - \$22 ADVANCE

} **RANI ARBO & DAISY MAYHEM**  
 W/ SPECIAL GUEST TBA  
 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **GREAT SHOW TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
 DECEMBER 2010

} **DAVID FRANCEY W/ AMELIA CURRAN**  
 FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 - \$20 ADVANCE



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