



Troubadour

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts
Vol. 11 Issue 1 August 2005

Opening the Curtain on a New Season and New Stage

It was 1988. Six String Concerts began its first exciting year of acoustical music promotion with the Columbus Music Hall (CMH) as its home base. The Hall, a restored Victorian era firehouse, was also starting its first season. It was a perfect match as we were both new to the music scene. It proved to be the first of 17 wonderful seasons together. Six String Concerts has hosted 109 performances at the CMH since 1988. Fast forward to the fall of 2005. We anticipate another great season of music, but with some big changes for both Six String Concerts and the Columbus Music Hall.

Six String Concerts will be moving its home base while the CMH will be changing its musical focus. We're pleased to call the Columbus Performance Arts Center (CPAC) at 549 Franklin Avenue our new home base. The CPAC has just undergone major renovations. It actually houses two theaters - the smaller Van Fleet theater with 190 seats and the larger, but still intimate, Shedd theater with 340 seats. Some of you may be familiar with the CPAC (under its former name, the S.S. Davis Discovery Center) as we've hosted several concerts there in previous seasons; most recently Iris DeMent, in the Shedd theater in September 2004. With a bit more "breathing room" we expect the CPAC to be more comfortable as we're looking forward to another busy season ahead. It's just a few blocks from the Columbus Music Hall, so you can still easily drop by Elemental before or after the show. While the CPAC will be our primary location, we do expect to host concerts in other locations too, so please be sure to check the schedule carefully.

We've really enjoyed our time with the CMH and will miss its intimate surroundings. It's been a true growth experience for all of us. The change in venue is quite timely. Nearly all of our shows at the CMH last season were sell-outs. We began to consider slightly larger venues at the very same time the CMH was mapping a new musical course. It will launch an all jazz format in the fall of 2005. See the President's Letter for more information. 🎸


in this issue

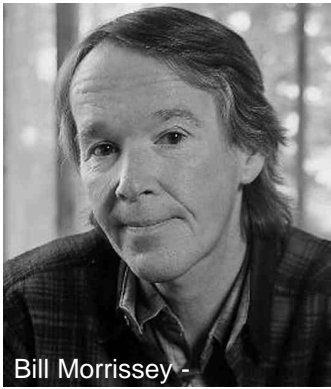
- 2 Bill Morrissey
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Columbus Performance Arts Center formally known as the S.S. Davis Discovery Center, at 549 Franklin Ave.

From the Columbus Museum of Art, go south on Washington then east on Franklin. CPAC is on the right.


**Six String
Concerts**
celebrating our
18th season



Bill Morrissey -
photo courtesy Rounder
Records

Bill Morrissey

September 23 - CPAC

Bill Morrissey's astute lyrical gifts and graceful, understated melodies have put him on festival stages across the world; into theatres, concert halls, and coffee-houses; garnered him critical

acclaim from magazines, authors, and music peers; and have earned him two Grammy nominations. We are honored to bring him to the stage at the CPAC on Friday, September 23 at 8 p.m.

"Morrissey's music is steeped in a world-weariness that assigns equal footing to humor and tragedy, straddling a roiling sea of characters, scenarios and feelings. His songs are vignettes for thinking folk."

- Buffalo News, Randy Rodda

On *Something I Saw or Thought I Saw* (Rounder Records), his first album of new original songs in five years, the arrangements are sparser, more intimate and the production is low-key. It is his most concentrated effort yet, a focused set of vignettes that are haunting in their descriptions of wayward souls and pristine in their craftsmanship.

Fittingly, if there is any theme to *Something I Saw or Thought I Saw*, it is that of the watcher: the person

who sees one's self removed from his surroundings, coming to terms with a world he cannot change. It's a thread that Morrissey has long pursued, and he weaves it beautifully through the course of the album.

Morrissey spins marvelously evocative tales from the most humble elements. When his fertile literary imagination meets his soulful voice and sparse, supple instrumentation, he effortlessly achieves what so few songwriters can: to take the profound and make it profoundly musical. 🎵

Letter from the President

After 17 successful years together, the Columbus Music Hall and Six String Concerts are saying a fond farewell. As you may know, we're looking forward to a new season with the CPAC as our new home. With slightly larger accommodations, it should be a goodfit with the number of concert-goers we expect. I've had the chance to take a personal tour of the newly renovated theater. I think both the performance artists and audience will be pleased with the results. Before we open the curtain on our new

Farewell and Best Wishes to the Columbus Music Hall

season, I'd just like to say on behalf of all of Six String Concerts, thank you to Becky Ogden and the

Columbus Music Hall. The intimate atmosphere and comfortable surroundings offered by the CMH meshed perfectly with the vision of Six String Concerts. We have so many fond memories of our shows at the CMH; from the very first concert, Livingston Taylor and Donna Mogavero in the fall of 1988 to our last, Ruthie Foster, in May 2005. It's been a wonderful experience. We'll miss our first home, but always cherish the memories.

From all of SSC, best of luck to Becky and the CMH! They've got some exciting new plans for the CMH. This fall it will go to an all-jazz format. Six nights a week there will be jazz, light food and a full selection of beverages at the CMH. Their season kicked off with Wiester's 21 piece Famous Jazz Orchestra on Monday, August 8th and will continue through May 2006. Check their website for the complete schedule (www.columbusmusic hall.com).

Here's to a wonderful year of music for us all! - Kim

Tish Hinojosa

October 28 - CPAC

As a child of Mexican immigrants in the border region, Tish Hinojosa has combined her cultural heritage with the American influences of folk, rock, and country to create a voice that is truly her own. She found her inspiration in the jumble of south Texas, where Mexican immigrants, European descendants, and Native Americans intertwine to create the rich, cultural fabric of the American Southwest. As a singing songwriter who has sung her songs around the world, the truth, whether it's in English or Spanish, in a ballad or a two-step, with a twang, a strum or an accordion punctuation, has long been her stock in trade.

Through the years, Hinojosa has become known for contributing her voice and her songs to causes ranging from Habitat for Humanity to migrant worker issues, from bilingual education to the National Women's Political Caucus. In March 2005, Tish released



Tish Hinojosa

her first studio CD in five years titled *A Heart Wide Open*. The disc includes twelve new songs all written by Tish. "What I did with this album is explore a little bit more of the pop element," Hinojosa said in an interview from her Austin home. "I tried to make this one pretty straightforward. ...In some ways this collection of songs is very personal but very universal. This is just more a journey of emotions. These are songs about endings and beginnings and acceptance." 🎵

Things to Remember...

Six String Concerts' Website - If you want to know about an upcoming Six String Concerts performance, learn more about the artists who have performed or enter to win free tickets (see below), check us out at www.sixstring.org!

Win Free Tickets for Each Show - Don't miss your chance to win tickets to see your favorite artists. All you have to do is access our website at www.sixstring.org, click on the Win Two Free Tickets link and fill out all necessary information.

Half-Season Tickets - Mark your calendars - you've got plans every month to see some of the best folk music has to offer! Purchase a half-season ticket... you'll have a ticket to each of the first five shows of the season and have saved an extra \$10! Please visit our website or call us at 470-FOLK for all the details.

\$5 Tickets for 18 and Under - To encourage all the future Jeff Blacks and Susan Werners out there to nurture an impeccable taste in good music, we are offering tickets at just \$5 for everyone 18, and under! Check out our website for all the details.

Susan Werner

November 18 - CPAC

George Gershwin. Cole Porter. Richard Rodgers. Billy Strayhorn. The Golden Age of Popular Song. A bygone era. No one can write tunes like that anymore. Or has Susan Werner added a new chapter to the Great American Songbook?

A breakthrough singer-songwriter in the mid-90s, Susan Werner has toured with countless luminaries including Joan Armatrading and Richard Thompson. With a nod to the composers of standards, Werner breathes new and brilliant life into the popular song tradition, with her fourth nationally released recording *I Can't Be New* (Koch Records). "I'd describe the aim of this project as Carole King's Tapestry meets Ella Fitzgerald's Cole Porter Songbook," Werner suggests. "I listened to Ella and a lot of Julie London when record-

ing this thing." It's the title track, "I Can't Be New," which sets the album's tone and exemplifies Susan's shining skill as a lyricist.

"It's the economy of the Great American Songbook tunes that I admire the most," says Werner. "That's the hardest thing to achieve — to pack all of this feeling, longing, heartbreak or desire into the tiniest song form. It's deceptively difficult."

It's also quite possible we've all been deceived into believing the era of the Great American Songbook has come to an end. In creating *I Can't Be New*, Werner may have sparked something very new — a revival of interest in writing traditional pop songs. And that would be a Great American thing, indeed. 🎵



Susan Werner - photo courtesy of hayley murphy

" Her new songs feel like they were pulled straight from the American songbag, shimmering with melodic elegance, urbane romanticism and sly, sexy wit. " - Boston Globe

"Susan Werner, a clever songwriter and an engaging performer, brings literacy and wit back to popular song." - The New Yorker



Six String Concerts • P.O. Box 9330 • Columbus, OH 43209-0330
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Listen here.

Jeff Black

December 2 - CPAC

"Black is an artist of substance," wrote *Billboard* in a review that compared his piano ballads to Randy Newman and his rockers to Bruce Springsteen. He concedes that, while he doesn't want to offer in-depth explanations of what his songs mean, "I love songs about freeing the spirit, about minimizing the struggle the best you can, about treating your individuality as something that's precious and important," he says. "Those are the topics I come back to because those are the ideas I keep examining within myself." But Black is too complicated to make it easy. His songs take unexpected turns, cursing and snarling at points, showing their lust and their desire as well as their determination to remain bound for glory.



"An old-fashioned storyteller, Black weaves words that hang above the understated instrumentation." - *Billboard Magazine*

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Washed in the spirit and built on simple truths, his songs are ambitious epics performed with brawny passion. His desire to dig deeper, to cut to the marrow is another hallmark of Black's writing. He knows the world is painted in more subtle shades than black and white, so he writes songs with a painter's eye for nuance and detail.

As anyone who's seen his moving, funny, and unpredictable concerts already knows, He never plays the same show twice, pulling from his commercial catalog *Birmingham Road* (Arista 1998), *Honey And Salt* (Blue Rose 2003), *B-Sides And Confessions Volume One* (Dualtone 2003), and the new music on *Tin Lily* (Dualtone 2005), he responds to the moment and to whatever is floating through the air shared by a unique collection of people on any given night with the stories and songs that transcend the role of a singer/songwriter and his instrument.

What makes a Jeff Black record or show exciting is that, as a listener, you know the singer is there not to perform for you, but to take you on a journey with him. 🎸

Feedback Requested

We've put several big changes into place this year because we believe they will be positive changes for Six String Concerts and our patrons. However, the only way we can be sure is to hear from you. Please take a moment to provide us with your feedback.

What do you think of the new ticket ordering process; the new venue? What concerns or suggestions do you have?

How can you submit your comments?

1. Visit us at

<http://www.sixstring.org/contactus.asp>
and complete the online feedback form

2. Send your written comments by

snail mail to:

Six String Concerts
PO Box 9330
Columbus, OH 43209-0330

email to: info@sixstring.org

3. Call us at: 470-FOLK

4. Talk with us at a concert

We value and depend on your feedback. Thanks in advance for your comments.




Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

January 27 - CPAC

Although they've performed together since 1992 and have been married since 1993, Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart waited until 2001 to officially bind their acts together. Along the way they released three critically acclaimed discs individually on the couple's Gearle Records label. By 2001, the need to consolidate the two acts became undeniable. Stuart recalls, "I did a three month tour on my own, and Stacey was doing a solo tour opening for her brother." Earle continues, "I had a great opportunity opening for Steve...but I'd be out there playing and catch myself looking over, especially come solo time. And it wasn't just the solos, it could just be one without Mark on stage, to me there was just so much missing."

Indeed. As anyone who's heard the couple perform knows, Stuart's elegant, fluid and deeply-rooted guitar work is positively essential to the cloth of their music. Displaying an enviable array of chops assembled over years spent playing a variety of venues as a solo act, in cover bands and with Steve Earle's Dukes --Mark has the knack for supplying the perfect touch. "It's that chemistry that gives a song life," says Earle.

To commemorate their on-stage merger, Stacey & Mark released a two disc set, *Must be Live*; crisply recorded and complete with some stellar examples of Stacey's unforgettable, over the backyard fence storytelling. Although it is on the pair's Gearle Records, they have opted for limited, low key distribution. Explains Earle, "We wanted to make this a very personal record without all the business demands and other ties that would come with full distribution."

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart long ago established themselves as one of the finest most engaging pairings in the folk country world. With *Must be Live* and from here on out, Stacey and Mark are determined to show you why. 

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

Board of Trustees

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New Ticket Process

Not only do we have an outstanding line-up of artists for you this year, we also have an easier way for you to purchase show tickets...through E-Tix. Using this online service, you'll be able to buy and print your tickets anytime from the convenience of your computer. You can buy tickets for as many Six String Concerts shows as you'd like. Whether you choose to buy tickets for one show, several, or a 1/2 season package ...you can complete your order(s) in one sitting.

If you prefer, you can still buy tickets the "old-fashioned way." There are, however, some important changes you need to be aware of.

❑ **Tickets are no longer available through our previous ticket locations** (Ticketmaster, CF Bank, Twin Rivers Music and Ace in the Hole). In addition to online ordering, tickets can still be reserved, ordered in advance through the mail or purchased at the door (if still available).

❑ **We will no longer send tickets in the mail.** We will provide you with a phone or email confirmation of your order and hold your tickets for you at the door. If ordering by mail, please enclose your check and a phone number or email address where we can reach you. Our address is:

Six String Concerts
P.O. Box 09330
Columbus, Ohio 43209

If making reservations, please email us at reservations@sixstring.org or call us at 614-470-3655. We need your name, phone number or email address, the name of the concert and the number of tickets you wish to reserve. We will confirm your reservation via phone or email. You may pick up your tickets at the door. We can take reservations up until midnight the night before the concert, but cannot accept them the day of the concert. We will hold your reservation until 8:00pm the night of the concert. If the show is a sell out, unclaimed tickets may be sold to another patron after 8pm.


You may be wondering how the changes in purchase method affect the cost of your ticket. Not much, really. We are committed to offering outstanding entertainment at affordable prices. Here's an example:

Base ticket price: \$15

Purchase by mail: \$15

Purchase online: \$16

Reserve or purchase at the door: \$18

We are truly excited about this new purchase method and want to hear your feedback. Please take a moment to give us your opinion. 

To Order Tickets Online for a Six String Concert

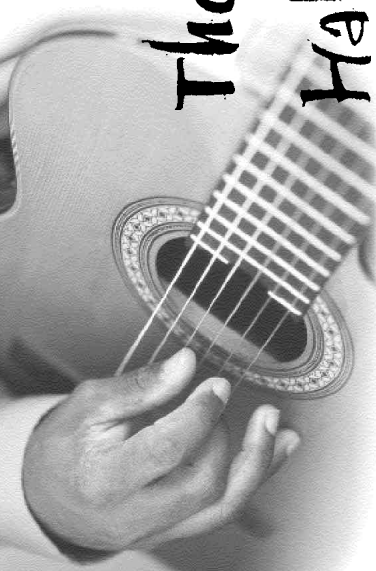
1. Visit our site at: www.sixstring.org
2. Click on the Season link on the left side of the screen.
3. Find the show that you'd like to see.
4. Click the Buy Ticket button under the artist's name.
Result: A new window appears with some basic e-tix information already filled in.
5. Select the number of tickets you want to buy. Then click Continue.
6. Review your order then click Continue. Note: There is a \$1.00 service charge for each ticket ordered online.
7. Enter the required ordering information.
8. Click the Purchase button to complete your order.
9. Print your tickets; then bring them with you to the show.



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The First Half of Our 18th Season...

Bill Morrissey

Friday, September 23

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Tish Hinojosa

Friday, October 28

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Jeff Black

Friday, December 2

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Susan Werner

Friday, November 18

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

Friday, January 27

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Ask about half-season discounts. Tickets available online at www.sixstring.org; or by mail - send check to Six String Concerts; PO Box 9330; Columbus, OH 43209-0330. Reservations can be made online (www.sixstring.org or reservations@sixstring.org) or by phone (614.470.FOLK).