



JANUARY 2010

TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

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www.SixString.org

★★★ A LETTER FROM KIM ★★★

Let's Hear It for the Volunteers!

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

Six String Concerts is and has always been an all-volunteer run organization. That means that aside from the actual music and sound engineering, every other function needed to keep Six String Concerts going is the responsibility of a volunteer.

Not only does our all-volunteer board provide advisory guidance, each member has very specific operational responsibilities. Recently, while attending a panel discussion of one of our grant applications, one reviewer spoke of her amazement that we have kept Six String Concerts alive and strong, for this long, solely on volunteer power.

So what do our volunteers do?

- Determine the season schedule
- Negotiate venue & artist contracts
- Arrange artist housing & transportation
- Create & execute marketing strategy
- Compose & layout newsletters
- Design postcards & advertisements
- Maintain media relations
- Design & maintain our website
- Post concert listings on electronic arts calendars
- Update Facebook & Twitter messages
- Manage ticket sales & online ticketing system
- Sell program advertising
- Manage finances & prepare taxes
- Manage insurance
- Coordinate volunteers
- Sell artist product at concerts

- Write grant applications
- Manage concessions
- Set-up & tear-down stage
- Sell raffle tickets
- Design & distribute posters
- Attend music conferences
- Take concert pictures
- Manage ASCAAP & BMI
- Provide massage for artists
- Maintain mailing & email lists
- Prepare & send mailings
- Conduct fundraising
- Provide artist hospitality
- Assist artists with local media contacts, radio and podcasting opportunities
- Design programs
- Take tickets & manage will call
- Prepare artist media packets

Whew... That's what it takes!!

Our volunteers are remarkable. Their commitment and hard work keeps the organization they love strong, successful and continuing to bring the finest performing songwriters to Columbus.
THANK YOU!!!!

KIM WILSON
President,
Six String Concerts

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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

GIRLYMAN WITH LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE

Saturday, February 13

Harmonies. If you had to describe the music of Girlyman in one word, that would be it.

The story doesn't end there, of course. The band blends modern acoustic, Americana, and folk-rock into a musical recipe *The Village Voice* has called "really good, really unexpected, and really different."

The trio of Nate Borofsky, Doris Muramatsu, and Ty Greenstein hails from Atlanta, though they formed the band in 2001 while sharing an apartment in Brooklyn. Their first rehearsal was scheduled for Tuesday, September 11. It was postponed, but the events of that day helped the trio clarify its vision. "We decided to just have fun," explains Borofsky.

Of the name Girlyman, Muramatsu says, "It's great for us, provocative and playful. It makes people laugh. But it also hints at how we've never quite fit in. The name Girlyman lets us acknowledge that we're out of the mainstream, but without taking ourselves too seriously."

Others, however, have taken the group quite seriously. The first few years brought critical delight, awards, and long opening runs with the Indigo Girls and Dar Williams. Girlyman

quickly became a strong headliner in its own right, and now plays in every corner of the country to intensely loyal "girlyfans" who often travel hundreds of miles to see shows.

Informed by 60s vocal groups like Simon & Garfunkel and The Mamas and the Papas, and infused with years of classical and jazz training, Girlyman's songs are a dance of melody and suspensions - an irresistible blend of acoustic, Americana, and rock.

Everything's Easy, Girlyman's fourth studio album, is the band's most intimate and sophisticated effort. The cover, a playful paint-by-numbers scene, suggests a world where one creates reality with only a brushstroke.

See page 7 for opener *Lucy Wainwright Roche*

“An exceptional demonstration of the potential of the human voice.”

– *Venus Magazine*



ELLIS PAUL WITH ANTJE DUVEKOT

Friday, March 12

One of the leading voices in American songwriting, Ellis Paul was a principle figure in the wave of singer/songwriters that emerged from the Boston folk scene, creating a movement that revitalized the national acoustic circuit with an urban, literate, folk pop style that helped renew interest in the genre in the 1990's.

Paul is a critically-acclaimed singer, songwriter, poet, and troubadour originally hailing from a potato farming family in northern Maine. He has earned thirteen Boston Music Awards, second only to multi-platinum act, Aerosmith.

In high school, Paul toured the country competing in track, catching a hard case of wanderlust, and earning a track scholarship to Boston College. It was there that he discovered songwriting, completely out of boredom when a track-career-ending knee injury left him bedridden for months, and he began making up songs on a guitar a friend had given him.

By 1989, he was haunting the open mic scene that would soon produce the most important generation of Boston folk stars since the early '60s, including Paul, Dar Williams, Vance Gilbert, Jonatha Brooke and Jennifer Kimball

(then performing as The Story), Martin Sexton, Patty Griffin, and Catie Curtis.

His charismatic, personally authentic performance style has influenced a generation of artists away from the artifice of pop, and closer towards the realness of folk. Though he remains among the most pop-friendly of today's singer-songwriters - his songs regularly appear in hit movie and TV soundtracks - he has bridged the gulf between the modern folk sound and the populist traditions of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger more successfully than perhaps any of his songwriting peers.

For his latest release, *The Day After Everything Changed* (his 15th album), Paul took a novel approach. He decided not to renew his contract with his longtime label Rounder Records and funded the project with pre-orders and donations. The generosity of his fan base allowed Paul complete control over the artistic process and was chronicled in a Boston Globe feature story.

See page 7 for opener Antje Duvekot



“*Ellis Paul is a master storyteller.*”

– Performing Songwriter Magazine



SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN PART BY:

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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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JOE CROOKSTON & CHRIS O'BRIEN

Saturday, April 17

Our April show features two artists who gave stand-out performances last season, and we knew we had to have them back as soon as possible. It's part of our mission to introduce you to great talent, and to help artists expand their audience. This show is what it's all about... Bring a friend.

JOE CROOKSTON

Joe Crookston's music and songwriting are deeply rooted in the grand celebration of life, death, ancestry and the interconnectedness of us all.

Crookston's music draws from his rural Ohio roots and exudes a remarkable intergenerational, universal, and timeless quality. His keen musicianship as guitarist, clawhammer banjo player, fiddler, singer and songwriter fuse contemporary and traditional elements, with his crafted writing style.

Inspired by Woody Guthrie, Crookston received a year-long grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to travel New York State, interview local residents, gather stories, and write songs based on his experiences. His project is called *Songs of the Finger Lakes*.

Crookston's latest CD *Able Baker Charlie and Dog*, which went straight to #1 on the US Acoustic/Folk DJ Charts and was recognized as Album of the Year by the International Folk Alliance.

His prior release *Fall Down as the Rain*, was chosen by *Performing Songwriter Magazine* as a 2004 "Top-12-Do-It-Yourself" independent recording and was featured on NPR's All Things Considered. Two of his songs recently won runner-up in the folk category in the prestigious National John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

The audience at the 2007 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival named him one of the Top 3 "Most Wanted" Emerging Artists, landing him a spot on the 2008 Falcon Ridge Preview Tour. With hypnotic guitar, bubbly banjo and short-story lyrics, Crookston exudes a universal and timeless quality.

Versatile songwriting, rave reviews, excellent musicianship and a charismatic stage presence have quickly made Joe Crookston one of folk music's "must sees".

“A treasure! Loving and mischievous playful spirit and multi-instrumentalist.”

– Scott Sheldon, Sanctuary Concerts NJ

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CHRIS O'BRIEN

Not every aspiring musician is lucky enough to learn his first few guitar chords from an old family friend like Dar Williams. But that's the way it started for Chris O'Brien.

O'Brien grew up surrounded by music and musicians. His stepmother, a former manager at the famed Iron Horse club in Northampton, MA, is also a folk DJ. Chris was raised on a steady diet of Joni Mitchell and Paul Simon. Influenced by Martin Sexton and Richard Shindell, he started crafting his own songs by the age of 14. After that, it was raw talent and passion that led him to be named one of Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's top emerging artists, to be named a finalist in the Mountain Stage song competition, to perform on *A Prairie Home Companion*, and to be named WUMB's New Artist of the Year – all in one year.

The Amherst, MA, native also released his first album, *Lighthouse* to much critical and audience acclaim. *Performing Songwriter Magazine* said of his debut effort: "[his] lyrics are full of the sweet poetry that only emerges when one's soul has been wounded, but yet are full of beauty and, well, light." And *The Eagle Times* called O'Brien "an uncommonly talented lyricist with a voice that feels comfortable and familiar at first listen."

As is true with any great writing, "the goal, says O'Brien, is not only to talk about what inspires you, but to talk about what is true about humans in general." In fact, his husky tenor and soulful, yet uplifting lyrics so captivated the national audience when he played on *A Prairie Home Companion*, that he earned the financial backing to quit his day job and devote himself full time to the troubadour life.

Like mentor Ellis Paul, O'Brien self-funded his latest CD through pre-orders and donations from a growing, loyal fan-base. The album is produced by Zack Hickman (bassist for Josh Ritter), and like *Lighthouse*, features some of the finest musicians in the Boston area.

“O'Brien has a compelling voice...
and a magnetic stage presence.”

– Northeast Performer Magazine



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LUCY KAPLANSKY WITH ANTHONY DA COSTA

Saturday, May 22

Lucy Kaplansky left Chicago for New York City when she was barely out of high school, settling into a community of singer-songwriters such as Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, and Bill Morrissey.

Initially known as everyone's favorite singing partner, the result of her gift of harmonization, Kaplansky most often found herself singing as a duo with Shawn Colvin. People envisioned big things for them; in fact, *The New York Times* said it was "easy to predict stardom for her." But then Lucy dropped it all.

She took the road less traveled for artists: she gave up music for school, earning a doctorate in Psychology. Dr. Kaplansky was often pulled back into the studio by her friends, (who by then had contracts with record labels) wanting her to sing on their albums.

She harmonized on Colvin's Grammy-winning *Steady On*, on Nanci Griffith's *Lone Star State of Mind* and *Little Love Affairs*, and on four of John Gorka's albums. She also landed soundtrack credits, singing with Suzanne Vega on *Pretty in Pink* and with Griffith on *The Firm*, and several commercial credits as well, including "The Heartbeat of America" for Chevrolet.

Then Colvin, who was itching to produce a record, hooked up with her ex-singing partner. They went into the studio, and it all came together. When Lucy's solo tapes got into the hands of Bob Feldman, president of Red House Records, he was blown away. Suddenly, Lucy was back in the music business.

Among her series of strong solo releases are *Ten Year Night* and *Every Single Day*, both of which won the AFIM award for best pop album of the year.

Her latest release, *Over the Hills*, is the story of how her family came to be in America and the struggles they have endured. The album connects to universal themes of love, joy, loss, and dreams for the future. "As a mother, I find myself thinking about what kind of life and what kind of world my daughter will experience," Lucy says.

See page 7 for opener Anthony da Costa



“New York songwriter Lucy Kaplansky is becoming the troubadour laureate of modern city folk.”

– The Boston Globe

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LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE

Opening for **Girlyman**

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.

“Sincere and raw... Roche's bittersweet voice leaps out; she paints an indelible image.”

– National Public Radio



ANTJE DUVEKOT

Opening for **Ellis Paul**

Antje Duvekot (pronounced: Aunt-yuh Doo-va-kot) is one of the brightest singer-songwriters to rise out of Boston's competitive acoustic music scene. Duvekot was born in Heidelberg, Germany and moved to the United States at the age of 13. She began recording music on her own at 16, producing limited-edition cassette tapes for her friends. At 18 she won the first open mic competition she entered, at the Sam Adams Brewpub in Philadelphia. She has been honored with the Boston Music Award for Outstanding Folk Act and has won the grand prize in the rock category of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest.

“What a blessing to have worked with someone as talented as Antje.”

– Richard Shindell



ANTHONY DA COSTA

Opening for **Lucy Kaplansky**

You're going to remember the first time you see Anthony da Costa. Just 18 years old and a freshman at Columbia University, da Costa writes with a wisdom and performs with a presence beyond his years. In 2007, at 16, he became the youngest winner ever at the Falcon Ridge and Kerrville Folk Festivals. He was the subject of a New York Times feature when he was just 14, and earlier this year, da Costa was named one of the "Top 5 Up-and-Coming Young Singers" by MSNBC.com.

“It's obvious Anthony da Costa is going to be leading a new generation of singer/songwriters in the near future.”

– Neil Pearson, Fish Records, UK



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2009/10 SEASON - SECOND HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

} **Girlyman with Lucy Wainwright Roche**
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **Ellis Paul with Antje Duvekot**
 FRIDAY, MARCH 12 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **Joe Crookston & Chris O'Brien**
 SATURDAY, APRIL 17 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **Lucy Kaplansky with Anthony da Costa**
 SATURDAY, MAY 22 - \$22 ADVANCE



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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?