



TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

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Inside the Music

Through the years, Six String Concerts has become a trusted source for making musical introductions to talented new artists. Many of our patrons ask how we find these artists.

There's no single answer.

We rarely present an artist whom one of our board members has not seen perform live. But when we do, it comes on the strong recommendation of one of our trusted colleagues in the industry like the booking agents with whom we have established close relationships.

One of the best ways we find new talent is by attending the International Folk Alliance Conference, where we have an opportunity to see and hear hundreds of artists in a single weekend. *It's like walking through our iPods!*

The conference is well-organized chaos, with artist showcases that last until the wee hours of the morning. It's also a chance to see first-hand around whom the other artists gravitate, which is a great indicator of the level of respect they have in the industry.

Recently, we've found several of our new artists this way, including Nels Andrews, Anthony da Costa, Joe Crookston, Amelia Curran, Melissa Greener, Matt The Electrician, Chris O'Brien, Storyhill, and many more.

Finding Danny Schmidt is a great example. Late one night, with maybe a dozen other people in a small hotel room, we were captivated by his song "Company of Friends". When the other artists in the room - presumably about whom he had written the song - chimed in with harmonies, we knew we had to share him with you.

Booking these great artists is made easier because Six String Concerts is known as a "great gig" among the performing songwriter community, thanks to our knowledgeable and appreciative audience, our friendly volunteers, and the free massage before the show.

Oh yeah, then there's the not-so-easy tasks of coordinating tour schedules, negotiating an offer, arranging the venue and the sound, organizing the volunteers, composing this newsletter, distributing the posters, and much more. It's not all play, you know... But we love it!



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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

DANNY SCHMIDT &

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 / \$20 ADVANCE

Danny Schmidt is a true native-son of Austin Texas in every sense of the word, having been born there in 1970. He is a singer-songwriter's songwriter, a torch bearer in the tradition of Townes Van Zandt, Guy Clark or a young Steve Earle. Just one man and his guitar sketching visions of love, loss, and longing; tales of restless discontent and grateful joy.

Schmidt's songs traverse from Appalachian mountain gospel to haunted English-type ballads, always focusing on the story as it unfolds before us. An ardent student of the masters – Bob Dylan, Neil Young and John Prine – Schmidt brings his poetry and melody to the words.

Although he didn't start actively writing songs until he was 25, his talent was immediately apparent. In 2007 he was awarded the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival "New Folk Award" alongside past Six String performers Carla Gover, Lindsay Mac and Storyhill. Schmidt has been a featured artist at the Storyhill Fest Midwest in both 2009 and 2010.

Schmidt's records live up to a strict writer's ethic: let the songs themselves stand out front. There are sparse backdrops of harmony vocals (often from his singing partner Carrie Elkin), strings, and accordion — and a little touch of this and a tiny pinch of that — all tastefully placed and painted for the benefit of the songs.

When asked to describe his songwriting, Schmidt has replied, "I am painting landscapes when all you have is gray and dark purple paint," and, "I'd say that, musically, I incorporate elements of old country blues and old mountain

barroom gospel, with a little dash of 60's protest pathos. Thematically, I think it falls somewhere between Ingmar Bergman's dour ethereal searching, Vaclav Havel's optimistic realism, and Rosanne Barr's personal candor."

A world traveler, brewer of beer (from his commune days but that's a story for another day), tequila lover, Saturday afternoon chef, and Texas Longhorns football fan, Danny Schmidt is a gifted songwriter that draws from his varied life experiences and allows us to tag along for a ride.

"...fascinating and intriguing, even mysterious."

-- WUMB Radio, Boston



CARRIE ELKIN



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Peripatetic. *Adjective: Traveling from place to place, esp. working or based in various places for relatively short periods.*

Perhaps this is the word that best fits Carrie Elkin's early days as a performing songwriter, which started in 1996 with her self-released CD, *Simplicity*. She has lived in Cleveland, Athens, Taos, Steamboat Springs, Colorado Springs, and Boston, before recently settling in Austin, Texas. Elkin's openness to the people and places that pass through her life, and to the opportunities that might emerge in every new situation, grew to become the central theme of her album, *The Jeopardy of Circumstance*.

Take, for instance, the time her VW campervan broke down in Ogallala, Nebraska. She found herself adopted by a posse of adoring cowboys who fed her steaks and Budweisers every night, and threw her on a horse to drive cattle with them during the days. This also explains how she somehow managed to find herself in the midst of some of Austin's finest musicians and producers within days of arriving in town.

Elkin's songwriting centers around finding balance between leading a traditional life and a life with more freedom, and the simplicity in

relationships; the need to feel connected in this crazy world of computers and cell phones. And although a reviewer for BBC Radio compared her style to Patti Griffin, Iris Dement, and Nancy Griffith, she sings with a clear, high voice that is distinctly hers.

That combination of words and voice has earned Elkin a contract with Red House Records, home to such singer-songwriter luminaries as The Roches and Eliza Gilkyson, and several Six String performers like Lucy Kaplansky, John Gorka, The Wailin' Jennies, and Danny Schmidt—who co-produced Carrie's new CD, *Call It My Garden*.

Elkin's insightful songwriting, soulful vocals and lively performances have won her fans across North America, Europe and the UK. She has been invited to several well-known folk festivals, including Storyhill Fest Midwest, the International Folk Alliance Conference in Memphis, and official showcases at South By Southwest.



“Instantly likeable, clever and rewarding.”

-- *Maverick 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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RICHARD SHINDELL

WITH NELS ANDREWS

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 / \$22 ADVANCE

Richard Shindell weaves tales that champion the downtrodden, exalt the disaffected and tell stories of those lost to society's fringes. His first-person narratives shine through the voices of vagrants, truck drivers, cabbies, drug addicts, Confederate drummerboys, Argentine grandmothers, and frustrated mule drivers. One song even tells a story from the perspectives of both an illegal immigrant and an INS agent.

Shindell was born in Lakehurst, New Jersey, grew up in Port Washington, Long Island, and currently resides with his family in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During college, Shindell teamed with John Gorka in the Razy Dazzy Spasm Band. Upon graduation, he spent stints in a Zen Buddhist monastery and playing for coins in Paris Metro stations before enrolling at Union Theological Seminary. Between classes he wrote his first "keeper song," a cryptic ode to the Virgin Mary called "On a Sea of Fleur de Lis."

He quickly was signed to an independent music label where he released three CDs including *Reunion Hill*, which won the AFIM award for Best Contemporary Folk Album. In 1998, Shindell teamed with Dar Williams and Lucy Kaplansky, to form the group Cry Cry Cry, releasing the highly acclaimed CD by the same name. The group toured together for two years. His 2007 CD *South of Delia* was a platform to feature the songs of some of his favorite songwriters, including Bruce Springsteen, Woody Guthrie and Josh Ritter. The recording features guest appearances by Kaplansky, Richard Thompson, and Larry Campbell.



Not Far Now is Shindell's first collection of new original songs in five years, and he knew it was overdue. "There are various subtle indications that it is time to make a new album, like when my fans start looking at me funny, when I've run through every puzzle at every level in the sudoku book, or when my children start to ask me what I do for a living."

So, what else is there to say about such a well-known artist who is making his 5th appearance for Six String Concerts? He first played for us in 1996, not long after he received his first-ever fan letter - yes, people actually sent letters back then. That letter was sent from our very own Kim Wilson!

See page 7 for opener Nels Andrews

“... the voice of a master.”

-- The Los Angeles Daily News

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IRENE KELLEY

WITH MELISSA GREENER

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 / \$20 ADVANCE



This show is a co-production with our friends at the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center of Worthington and will take place in their fabulous theater located at 160 West Dublin Granville Road.



Irene Kelley's Americana music career may have started when she was kicked to the curb by her Led Zeppelin cover band when she was 15 years old. She had made the audacious suggestion that they try a Dolly Parton song. At 19, she learned how to play guitar, and soon after she started writing her own songs. One of her first was "Pennsylvania Is My Home," which she sang in a 1982 PBS documentary. The song was nominated for the state song of Pennsylvania.

A few demos and some dogged contacts with Nashville publishers later, Kelley signed a contract and moved to Music City in 1983. She released a couple of singles, "You Are a Rock and I Am a Rolling Stone" and "Love Is a Hard Road" before beginning a long and successful career as a writer for other singers, including Loretta Lynn, Ricky Skaggs, Pure Prairie League, and Rhonda Vincent.

In 1999, she cut her own record and released it on her own label. A reviewer for *Performing Songwriter* called *Simple Path*, "a warm and wonderful collection of bluegrass-tinged country music that's hard to find on the radio these days. It has the timeless sound of a standard; something Dolly Parton or Loretta Lynn would be proud to call their own." One song from that album earned her a spot on the Grand Ole Opry, and she sang, "Well, tonight if you turn your radio on and you hear a sad, sad song about someone who lost everything they had, it may sound like me, but I'm a little bluer than that."

Alan Jackson heard that performance on his car radio, and before the song was over he called their mutual publisher asking for a copy of the song. Not only did "Bluer Than That" appear on his quintuple-platinum 2003 CMA album of the year, *Drive*, Jackson asked her to add her lilting harmonies to his version of the song. In 2005, Irene released her second album, *Thunderbird*, about which she says, "I think of myself as a very private person but songwriting will have no part of that. All my struggles are in these songs for all the world to hear. *Simple Path* put out little hints; *Thunderbird* announces loudly every detail!"

Irene Kelley is the epitome of Americana, writing songs of heartache and joy, harm and redemption, and loss and ascension. Dolly would be proud.

See page 7 for opener Melissa Greener

“She sings with immense hillbilly heart and writes like a champion.”

-- Music Row Magazine



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EDDIE FROM OHIO

FRIDAY, MAY 20 / \$30 ADVANCE

The Buckeye fans among us may want to hold on to the “O-H” for a minute.

Despite their name, Eddie from Ohio actually hails from the rolling hills of Virginia, playing together since 1991 when four alumni from James Madison University and Virginia Tech teamed up to produce a sound that blends stunning four-part harmony with acoustic guitar, bass and both hand and stick percussion.

Their sound has been described as “Grateful Dead meets Peter, Paul & Mary.” So if you enjoy harmonic lyrics and skilled instrumentation, Eddie From Ohio will be right up your alley. They say they’re not angry enough to be labeled alternative, but Entertainment Weekly suggests a blend: “This ‘folkternative’ quartet charms with an irresistible cache of smart quirky songs.”

Eddie from Ohio is independent both as a group - forming their own record label to release their nine albums - and as individuals. Following Julie Murphy Wells’ (vocals) diagnosis of breast cancer in 2005, they dialed back their tour schedule and each of the band’s members pursued individual projects. Murphy Wells now is a cancer cure activist. Robbie Schaefer

(guitar, vocals) has a children’s music show on XM Satellite Radio, serves as the Music Director for XM Kid, and has released two solo albums. Michael Clem (bass, guitar, vocals) released his first solo endeavor in 2006. Eddie Hartness (drums, percussion, vocals) continues to play and tour with local bands and produced Clem’s CD.

Their talent has been recognized by the Washington Area Music Association, which has awarded them the “Best Contemporary Folk Group” moniker 5 times. The band has played the main stage at some prestigious music festivals, including Philadelphia Folk and The Strawberry Music Festival.

This year marks Eddie from Ohio’s 20th anniversary. The band thought long and hard about what they can do to make 2011 special. A statement on their website says, “One thing with which we all agree is how fortunate and blessed we’ve been to make our passion our livelihood. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to making this A Year Of Giving Back. At each 2011 performance, we will be donating 10% of our show proceeds to a select local charity.”



“... tight four-part harmonies, compelling folk-pop rhythms, and capricious lyrics that make light of heavy subjects.”

-- Washington Post

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NELS ANDREWS

Opening for Richard Shindell, March 12

Nels Andrews has spent the last couple of years living life in the margins, sleeping on floors and in parking lots, slipping in and out of bars and coffee shops in towns that barely knew he was there. Andrews has lived this marginal life before; in his early twenties, chasing Kerouac down the road, working itinerant jobs in the canneries of Alaska and planting trees in the forests of South Dakota.

In his journeys, Andrews has found a voice in that of the romantic optimist that comes from the eyes of being an outsider.

Andrews was selected as a winner at the 2002 Kerrville Folk Festival, the 2006 Telluride Bluegrass Festival's Troubadour Competition and the Mountain Stage New Song Competition that same year.

“... the rare ability to conjure entire vistas and characters in no more than a couple of lines.” — Chart Magazine

MELISSA GREENER

Opening for Irene Kelley, April 15

Melissa Greener begged for a guitar for a year before she finally got one at the age of nine.

Greener has a wanderlust that took her from her home in Detroit to Tel Aviv. Love took her to Montreal. College took her to Halifax. And the opportunity to teach took her to Jingdezhen, China. Isolated, the only westerner in the village, she began writing songs that would become her first CD, *Fall From The Sky*.

In 2009, Greener won First Prize in the USA Songwriting Competition folk category for her song “Bullets to Bite”.

“Blessed with a glorious, oversized, and utterly distinctive voice.”

-- Acoustic Guitar Magazine



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2010/11 SEASON - SECOND HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

} **DANNY SCHMIDT
 & CARRIE ELKIN**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 - \$20 ADVANCE

} **RICHARD SHINDELL
 W/ NELS ANDREWS**

SATURDAY, MARCH 12 - \$22 ADVANCE

} **IRENE KELLEY
 W/ MELISSA GREENER**

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 - \$20 ADVANCE

MCCONNELL ARTS CENTER OF WORTHINGTON
 160 W. DUBLIN GRANVILLE ROAD

} **EDDIE FROM OHIO**
 FRIDAY, MAY 20 - \$30 ADVANCE



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SHOWS ARE AT 8PM & TAKE PLACE AT:
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