



TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

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TRUST US

At one point in time, all the stellar artists you've come to know were new to the scene and struggling to be heard. To establish a successful career, it takes immense talent, a lifetime of hard work, a lucky break or two, and the chance to perform for an audience of open minds and discerning ears.

It's part of the mission of Six String Concerts to introduce you to the best new artists and to help them build a following so they can keep making the music you love.

One venue features 'Take a Chance Tuesdays', and others have 'New Artist Nights'. We call them our 'Trust Us' shows. Our volunteers and board members have done our homework to find artists we think the world should know about. In the second half of our 24th season, we're featuring four such acts.

Sure, you're going to brave the February cold to see perpetual fan-favorite Cheryl Wheeler, but you're likely to go home talking about the opener, Seth Glier. And we're confident you'll want to take home a CD from Robby Hecht when he opens for Catie Curtis in March.

But we're not limiting these musical introductions to opening performers. We're featuring as headliners two groups that took the 2011 Folk Alliance Conference by storm. And we're just as excited to present these shows as we are for the return of a tried-and-true artist like Dougie MacLean.

The Steel Wheels is a remarkably talented quartet steeped in Americana, Bluegrass, Gospel traditions, but with a modern energy and lyrical perspective. The band features virtuosic musicianship and striking harmonies led by the haunting vocal of Trent Wagler, whose voice is reminiscent of John Fogerty.

Da Costa, Rose, and Elliott is a trio of top-notch next-generation performing songwriters. Anthony da Costa has performed for us once before, opening for Lucy Kaplansky in 2010. He returns with friends and fellow troubadours, Austin-based Raina Rose and Minnesota-to-LA-transplant John Elliott.

They perform together so seamlessly that a first-time listener will be surprised to hear they're three individual artists who play as a trio only when their rugged schedules allow. The group is the subject of an upcoming documentary film called *Folk*, which details a year in the lives of up-and-coming performing songwriters. We're sure they're all going to become regulars in the Six String Concerts rotation of artists.

Now it's the time for you to do your part. Take a chance and come hear an artist who is new to you. And while you're at it, bring a friend to introduce them to the Six String Concerts community. You're not going to want to miss a note. They're that good. (*Trust us...*)



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- Link to artist websites & song samples

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CHERYL WHEELER WITH SETH GLIER

Saturday, February 4th / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

With Cheryl Wheeler, the question is always, "What will she say next?"

One minute she's singing about her cat speaking in French, then she shifts syllabic inflections on the pronunciation of the word "Potato", and then leaves you on the verge of tears with a relationship song. She will talk about some serious current event, and then sing a song that will have the audience howling with laughter.

Wheeler's songs are often emotional portraits of people, leaving the listener with the impression of knowing the characters, with the effect of being pulled into the song rather than standing outside and observing.

Wheeler first performed professionally at a Maryland restaurant, but soon graduated to clubs in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas. In 1976, she moved to Rhode Island, where she became the protégé and bass player for country-folk singer-songwriter Jonathan Edwards.

Her songs have been recorded by Dan Seals, Peter Paul and Mary, Kenny Loggins, Garth Brooks, Suzy Boggus, Melanie, Bette Midler, Sylvia, Kathy Mattea, and a host

of others. She has also been seen wandering across the continent with the Four Bitchin' Babes.

Wheeler has been recording albums since 1984 but about half of the songs she performs in concert have never been recorded. Her most recent release, 2009's *Pointing at the Sun* is her first independent release on her own record label, Dias, and features "The Cat Trilogy" three songs about her late cat, Penrod. First there is the Eminem-like rap of "White Cat," the neo-Hot Club Django swing of "Cat Accountant" and the salsa flavored "My Cat's Birthday." The Cat trilogy brings forward Wheeler's whimsy and gift for words.

Scott Alarik, author of *Deep Community* says, "More confidently and beautifully than ever before, she proves that the poet and the comic are one and the same."

It's a cavalcade of entertainment all wrapped up in the person of one Cheryl Wheeler.

See page 7 for opener Seth Glier



“Rare artist...
strong poetry,
complex
melodies,
clever wit.”

– SingOut!

CATIE CURTIS WITH ROBBY HECHT

Saturday, March 3rd / \$20 Advance / Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center Of Worthington

At the age of 15, Catie Curtis received a guitar as a gift from her neighbor, promising that she'd learn how to play it. And learn she did.

Since 1995, Curtis has released 11 albums, with her most recent *Stretch Limousine on Fire* debuting in August, 2011. The album is a reflection on the temporary nature of life, the tone of which may have been inspired, literally, by the title of the album. The name refers to a scene Curtis witnessed while stuck in traffic.

Curtis' songs are infused with everyday observances, but also attend to larger social and political issues. For instance, she and co-writer Mark Erelli won the International Songwriting Competition in 2005 with a tribute to Hurricane Katrina victims and the political implications of the storm. Curtis also recorded a video to accompany the song, featuring images of New Orleans a year after the storm.

In line with this focus on social issues, and the initial gift that prompted Curtis to learn to play guitar, in 2008 she founded

the *Aspire to Inspire* endowment which seeks to provide musical instruments to underprivileged children through the American Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Curtis' music has been the backdrop for a number of popular television shows including *Alias*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Desperate Housewives*, and *Chicago Hope* among others. She has a long touring history, both solo and with other artists, including Lilith Fair.

Curtis now makes her home in Boston with her wife and their two daughters. Inspired by a commitment to marriage equality, Curtis was ordained by the Universal Life Church in 2010 and performs same sex wedding ceremonies for fans.

Expect Curtis to deliver a socially conscious show full of energy and emotional lyrics. But she'll do it in one of the sweetest tones you've ever heard.

See page 7 for opener Robby Hecht



“Folk-rock goddess.”

– *New Yorker*



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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THE STEEL WHEELS WITH RED TAIL RING

Saturday, March 31st / \$20 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

It's good to be The Steel Wheels. Their latest album, *Red Wing*, was nominated for 5 Independent Music Awards and the song "Nothing You Can't Lose" won for Best Country Song. *Red Wing* was also ranked in the Americana Music Association's Top 100 Albums, and named one of the year's best albums by *Maverick* magazine.

Not bad for a collaboration that began in 2004 after lead singer Trent Wagler opened for guitarist/mandolin player Jay Lapp's band at the time, the Goldmine Pickers. The two clicked musically and eventually formed The Steel Wheels with the addition of Brian Dickel on upright bass and Eric Brubaker on fiddle. The band's style and performance communicate passionate simplicity.

Described by one reviewer as exploring "the territories between blues and bluegrass", The Steel Wheels invigorates traditional Americana or "roots" music with inventive arrangements, accomplished musicianship, and tight vocal harmonies. All band members contribute vocals and Wagler's distinctive voice has evoked comparisons to Darrell Scott and John

Fogerty. The upbeat intensity of their live performances has garnered both critical praise and a large, growing fan base.

Based in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, these accomplished musicians traveled numerous roads before climbing on The Steel Wheels. Wagler grew up in rural Indiana performing in a family gospel music quartet. Lapp hails from Virginia and studied at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music before building his own recording studio. Iowan Brian Dickel met Wagler in college where they were in a rock band. He then built guitars professionally with Eric Brubaker, who is from Oregon, before they teamed up in the band.

Given their love of traditional music and life, perhaps it is not surprising that the band sometimes tours on bicycles rather than by car.

The Steel Wheels name calls to mind movement and travel. For this band, it seems that a great trip is just beginning.

See page 7 for opener Red Tail Ring



“ Songs that recall a more familiar time and yet sound fresh and creative. ”

– Acoustic Cafe

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DOUGIE MACLEAN

Friday, April 27th / \$30 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Dougie MacLean is one of Scotland's most successful, respected and popular musicians.

A fine guitarist, fiddler and lyricist, MacLean is also a composer and arranger. Early in his musical career, he was a member of the Tannahill Weavers and the critically acclaimed Silly Wizard.

MacLean has been a successful solo artist for almost thirty years and in that time has released more than twenty albums including instrumental and live recordings. Dougie's most recent release is 2010's *Resolution*, an excellent collection of contemporary acoustic songs infused with traditional Scottish musical values.

MacLean's conquest of America sprang from a collaboration with country star Kathy Mattea. In 1990 she decided she needed to slow down and reconnect with her musical roots. That meant folk music, and she took some time off to go visit her favorite Scottish folk singer, Dougie MacLean. MacLean co-produced and played several instruments on Mattea's version of "From a Distance," and when Mattea returned to Nashville,

she recorded a version of MacLean's "Ready for the Storm." Both songs showed up on Mattea's 1991 album, *Time Passes By*, and left fans asking, "Who is this Dougie MacLean"?

Many of his songs are inspired by his rural upbringing in Perthshire, but as many are from tales he's gathered in his trips round the world performing what he modestly calls "these wee songs of mine." MacLean is simply an artist of the twenty-first century writing songs for our times which have a strong sense of place and history.

One of MacLean's most famous pieces is "The Gael", from his album *The Search*, which was adapted by Trevor Jones as the main theme to the film *Last of the Mohicans*.

MacLean was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by her Majesty the Queen in July 2011, for services to music and charity in Scotland. It is fitting that MacLean receive the prestigious award given that he is the writer of one of the most beautifully patriotic Scottish songs of the last century, "Caledonia".



“A Scottish phenomenon.”

– *Performing Songwriter Magazine*



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ANTHONY DA COSTA, RAINA ROSE & JOHN ELLIOTT

Friday, May 18th / \$20 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

The final show of our 24th season features artists who trade harmonies and support one another with such ease and familiarity that it's hard to believe they're not full-time band mates.

Anthony da Costa: A 21-year-old junior at Columbia University, da Costa is already a leader in the performing songwriter community. He taught himself to play guitar at age 10 and released his first album, *Already There*, at 14. At 16, he became the youngest-ever award winner at both the Falcon Ridge and Kerrville folk festivals. At 17, he was featured in the *New York Times*. He wowed the Six String Concerts audience in 2010 when he opened for Lucy Kaplansky.

In line with a growing trend, da Costa initiated a grassroots campaign to promote his most recent album, *Secret Handshake*, by raising money from

fans through the crowdfunding website Kickstarter. It's his first album recorded live in the studio.

Raina Rose: Born in Los Angeles, raised in Portland, Oregon, and now based in Austin, Texas, Rose has toured nationally since 2005 and has been featured in several high-profile folk music festivals including Kerrville, Telluride and the High Sierra Music Festival.

Growing up in a house alive with '60s pop and good ole' fashioned country music, Rose was given a guitar at age eleven. By the time she hit high school, she was writing heart-wrenching teenage love songs.

She collaborated with Meredith Cushing as The Gypsy Moths before releasing her first solo album *Despite the Crushing Weight of Gravity* in 2006.

The Oregonian predicts "her audiences will sit up and take notice."

John Elliott: A Minnesota native residing in Los Angeles, Elliott writes gripping stream-of-consciousness songs that often take unexpected twists en route to delivering a powerful message. Elliott began playing at various Hollywood venues in 2001 and had expanded throughout southern California by 2003. His music has been featured on hit TV shows including *One Tree Hill*, *Grey's Anatomy* and *Californication*.

Chuck Schiele of *The San Diego Troubadour* says Elliott's lyrics "get in, make their statement, kick you in the teeth, and get out before they start talking too much...And this lends to the urge of rolling any track to its beginning for another spin."



“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

“If a bottle of champagne could sing, it would sound a lot like Raina Rose.”

– Tracy Grammer

“There's a stylistic melancholy tone and charisma in [John Elliott's] voice.”

– The San Diego Troubadour

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SETH GLIER OPENING FOR CHERYL WHEELER

Despite his relatively young age, Glier is a seasoned troubadour, traveling all over the United States and performing over 200 dates a year. The Berklee-educated singer/pianist has shared the stage with his idol James Taylor, opened for Edwin McCain and The Verve Pipe, and performed on main stages of the prestigious Falcon Ridge and Kerrville Folk Festivals.

Seth hopes to continue to make as many personal connections as possible with his music. He declares, "I am inspired, and I will inspire the person sitting next to me. Promise!"



“*He’s gonna be huge.*”

– Ellis Paul

ROBBY HECHT OPENING FOR CATIE CURTIS

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee and raised on his parents’ record collection of 1970s singer/songwriters, Robby Hecht early on discovered his musical vocation. “Playing music just never seemed like work, so I knew that was what I was meant to do. I discovered I had an affinity for finger-picking and went from there.”

After attending college in Wisconsin and playing music in Paris and San Francisco, Hecht settled in Nashville to focus on his career. His intensive touring and songwriting, including appearances with Richie Havens, Greg Brown, and Patty Griffin, have garnered him prizes and praise.

“*A beautiful, soulful voice.*”

– Jeff Coffin, Dave Matthews Band



RED TAIL RING OPENING FOR THE STEEL WHEELS

Red Tail Ring is the musical brainchild of two old-time-minded Michiganders – Michael Beauchamp and Laurel Premo. The collaboration blends the loving attention of revivalist fervor with the playful creativity of starting from scratch. Whether rendering a traditional tune or one of their many original compositions, the duo infuses each song with musical imagination, haunting harmonies and instrumental artistry.

“*Each song is overflowing with passion, emotion...*”

– Jeremy Martin, Randomville



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2011/2012 SEASON - SECOND HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

CHERYL WHEELER
 with Seth Glier

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 - \$22 ADVANCE

CATIE CURTIS
 with Robby Hecht

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 - \$20 ADVANCE

PEGGY R. MCCONNELL ARTS CENTER OF WORTHINGTON
 777 EVENING STREET, WORTHINGTON

THE STEEL WHEELS
 with Red Tail Ring

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 - \$20 ADVANCE

DOUGIE MACLEAN
 FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - \$30 ADVANCE

ANTHONY DA COSTA, RAINA ROSE & JOHN ELLIOTT
 FRIDAY, MAY 18 - \$20 ADVANCE



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