



TROUBADOUR NEWSLETTER

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25 YEARS... AND COUNTING!

Six String Concerts was founded in 1988 by a group of friends who loved acoustic music and wanted to see the best performing songwriters here in Central Ohio. Frustrated by the lack of national acoustic acts playing in the area at the time, the group decided to produce concerts themselves.

Over the past 24 seasons, we've contributed to the Central Ohio community arts scene by presenting 232 concerts, featuring 225 different artists, and built a loyal, knowledgeable, appreciative audience that artists love to play for.

We have grown into a nationally-recognized concert series with a reputation within the performing songwriter community as the gold standard of concert-presenting organizations.

While some of the faces may have changed, so much has stayed the same. Six String Concerts remains an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to its mission of connecting artists and audiences.

Our 25th season lineup promises to be among the strongest collections of artists we have ever presented. Read on to learn about the artists featured in the first half of our season.

And check out our website – www.SixString.org – to learn about the rest of the season,

which includes performances by Ellis Paul (including a special family show), Mary Gauthier, and the return of some of our past "Trust Us" artists who you've asked us to bring back.

We're so excited to be celebrating our 25th season. We couldn't have made it here without the thousands of patrons, hundreds of volunteers, dozens of sponsors, and all the incredible artists who have shared their talents.

Thanks for sharing this journey with us. See you at the show.



**THERE'S NEVER BEEN
A BETTER YEAR TO
GET A SEASON TICKET.**

You'll save with a discount off the price for each show and pay less in charges from our ticket vendor. And if you purchase a full season ticket, you'll receive a free ticket to the Ellis Paul Special Family Show in February.



THINGS TO REMEMBER...

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P.O. Box 9330
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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.

DISCOUNTED 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!

DISCOUNTED SEASON TICKETS

Save even more on ticket prices and service charges with our full and half season ticket packages.

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

LORI McKENNA WITH MARK ERELLI

Friday, September 21 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Lori McKenna understands love, family, history, and home.

She is a master at chronicling the small, difficult moments between romantic partners as they navigate their relationships, as well as the moments that celebrate the love that accompanies the daily routine of life.

Based in Massachusetts, she entered the Boston folk music scene nearly twenty years ago, and built a fiercely dedicated following with her raw and honest writing. She crafted her songs while her five children were at school, and performed at venues and festivals throughout the Northeast. She is a five-time Boston Music Award winner.

Lori's unusual combination of professional and personal life, at least in the context of the modern music industry, is well-documented. She grew up in Massachusetts in a musical household. Her father was an excellent singer, and her mother played the piano. Two of her older brothers were songwriters, one of whom (Richard) she considers largely responsible for her career. He accompanied a reluctant Lori to open mic nights and gave her confidence that she was good enough.

She began performing her songs in public at age 27, after she and her husband Gene already had three children. She and Gene continue to maintain a happy home in Stoughton, Massachusetts, having added two more children to their full lives. In addition to family, place has an important role in Lori's songs.

She eventually became a staple of the Boston folk music scene, where she became friendly with Mary Gauthier. "We were the two old ladies in a sea of young faces," she jokes. When Gauthier picked up and left for Nashville, she brought Lori's music to the attention of her publisher.

They got her music into the hands of Faith Hill, who fell hard for Lori's songs. Hill recorded three of them for her album *Fireflies*. Lori's way of articulating the love, pain and pathos of domestic life had a huge impact on Hill, and Hill's very public championing of Lori's music led other artists to Lori's songs.

Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, Alison Krauss, Keith Urban and LeAnn Rimes are among the many that have recorded her songs in recent years.

See page 7 for opener / accompanist Mark Erelli



“Her voice can cut like a knife's edge, swoop like a fiddle, or shrink to a plaintive whisper.”

– Boston Globe

CHRISTINE LAVIN

Friday, October 19 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Christine Lavin is a one-of-a-kind artist.

Her witty songs, hilarious on-stage presentation and irreverent attitude have enlivened the folk scene for more than 25 years. Abundantly clever & unabashedly fond of a good laugh, she has become the wry musical voice of the post-Boomer, pre-Gen X generation.

Lavin's live concerts have become a fixture in folk/pop culture, and she has received numerous awards, including The ASCAP Foundation Jamie deRoy and Friends Award, a NAIRD Award, two New York Music Awards, seven ASCAP Composer Awards, The World Music Association's Kate Wolf Memorial Award and a Backstage Bistro Award for New York City Singer-Songwriter of the Year.

She was listed in the TOP 100 Most Influential Artists by *Performing Songwriter Magazine*. She is also widely known as the original creative force behind the feisty, folky femmes fatales, Four Bitchin' Babes.

Lavin is certainly a woman who loves to multitask. With more than 20 albums under her belt, she also is an author.

Her children's book *The Amoeba Hop*, was cited as the Outstanding Book of the Year by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Along with the book's illustrator, Betsy Franco Feeney, she is working on a new book for young readers, *The Runaway Christmas Tree*. Her many essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The St. Petersburg Times*.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of her career in songwriting and performance, Lavin's book *Cold Pizza for Breakfast: A Mem-wha??* was released to strong critical reviews.

Her most recent project, *Just One Angel* is a holiday compilation of new Christmas/Hanukah/Solstice/New Year's songs by 22 of America's best contemporary singer/songwriters. Lavin gathered together songs by some of



her all-time favorite performers including Janis Ian, The Bitchin' Babes, Jeff Daniels, Lori Lieberman, and Kate Taylor to create an album sure to please anyone eager to hear smart, new holiday fare. The album is billed as "Holiday music you'll never hear in an elevator!"

A tireless performer, Lavin performs nearly 52 weeks a year crisscrossing America, Canada and countries abroad.

“She is what every artist yearns to be: An original.”

— Jeff Daniels, actor and singer/songwriter



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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JOHN WORT HANNAM & BRIAN ASHLEY JONES

Friday, November 16 / \$20 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

JOHN WORT HANNAM

From the prairies in Southern Alberta comes one of Canada's best folk/roots songwriters, John Wort Hannam.

For five years John Wort Hannam taught grade 9 language arts on the largest reserve in Canada – The Kainai Nation, part of the Blackfoot Confederacy. But in 1997 he heard a Loudon Wainwright III record and was hooked by the music and stories. In 1998 he bought a guitar and learned some chords. In 2002 he quit teaching and began to pursue the dream of being a working musician.

Hannam has achieved some fine accolades in a few short years including a mainstage performance at the 2009 Kerrville Folk Fest, three Grand Prizes at the Calgary Folk Fest Songwriting Competition, and numerous nominations and awards. With comparisons to Gordon Lightfoot, James Keelaghan, and John Prine, John Wort Hannam is a born storyteller with a keen eye for the quirky and lyrics that create stories behind the songs.

Accompanying Hannam on fiddle is accomplished Calgary-based musician Scott Duncan.

BRIAN ASHLEY JONES

Brian Ashley Jones is a soulful singer, accomplished guitarist, and versatile Americana songwriter.

His songs find influence in the guitar-driven Country, Blues and Bluegrass that he absorbed in his hometown of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and have been placed in film and television and recorded by a variety of other performing artists.

Courier, Jones' independent release, made the Top 40 of the Roots Music Report and broke the Top 100 of the Americana Music Association's album chart. He showcased his songs as an official performer at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for Best American Roots Guitar Player in the Alternate Roots 2011 Reader's Choice Awards.

Accompanying Jones on bass and vocals is Columbus-native Tisha Simeral.

Now based in Nashville, Jones and Simeral have accompanied numerous artists on stage and in the recording studio, including Grammy-winning songwriter Jon Vezner, Caroline Aiken, Sara Hickman, and Jeff Black.



“Astutely crafted collection of musical narratives.”
– Pasadena Weekly



“A master class on how to play the guitar.”
– Maverick Magazine

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JOE CROOKSTON

Saturday, December 1 / \$20 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

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 a 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 2004 release *Fall Down as the Rain*, was chosen by *Performing Songwriter Magazine* as a "Top-12-Do-It-Yourself" independent recording and was featured on NPR's All Things Considered.

His second CD *Able Baker Charlie and Dog*, went straight to #1 on the

US Acoustic/Folk DJ Charts and was recognized as 2009 Album of the Year by the International Folk Alliance. Two of his songs 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 along with fellow Six String Concerts veterans Lindsay Mac, Anthony da Costa and Randall Williams.

His latest CD *Darkling & the Bluebird Jubilee*, which blends a traditional feel into wonderful originals has also received rave reviews.

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".



“ The most fleet fingered guitar work this side of Richard Thompson. ”

– *Performing Songwriter Magazine*



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PATTY LARKIN

Saturday, January 12 / \$22 Advance / Columbus Performing Arts Center

Musical troubadour Patty Larkin has redefined the boundaries of folk-pop music for more than 25 years with her inventive guitar wizardry and uncompromising wit. *Acoustic Guitar* hails Larkin for expanding “her singer-songwriter folk style with soundscape experiments” while *Rolling Stone* praises her “evocative vocals, warm tunes, and subtle sonic shading.”

Larkin is part of the urban-folk/pop music phenomenon that spun off of the singer/songwriter explosion of the seventies, reinterpreting traditional folk melodies, rock, pop, bossa nova, drawing on anything from Dylan (Bob) to Dylan (Thomas). A self-described “guitar driven songwriter,” Larkin has wound her way through soundscapes of evocative vocals, inventive guitar wizardry and imaginative lyrics. Her songs run from impressionistic poetry to witty wordplay.

Growing up in a musical and artistic family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Larkin comes from a long line of Irish American singers and tale-tellers. She learned at a young age to appreciate the beauty and magic of the arts. She began classical piano studies at age 7, and became swept up in the sounds of pop and folk in the 60s, teaching herself the guitar and experimenting with songwriting.

An English major, Larkin sang throughout her high school and college career, starting out in coffeehouses in Oregon and San Francisco. Upon graduation, she moved to Boston and devoted herself to music, busking on the streets of Cambridge and studying jazz guitar at Berklee College of Music and with Boston area jazz guitarists.

Larkin recently celebrated a career spanning a quarter century by making *25*, a re-recording of twenty five of her own songs, each reworked with her favorite fellow artists. Guest artists include Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega, Bruce Cockburn, Mary Chapin Carpenter and others. *25* is the unplugged version of classic Larkin love songs, created with a dream team of some of acoustic music’s heroes.

Larkin is the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Music degree from Berklee, recognized for her outstanding contributions to contemporary music. She has won an unprecedented 11 Boston Music Awards and is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnae Award from Berklee and “Patty Larkin Appreciation Day”, a proclamation by Boston’s mayor Thomas Menino.



“Drop-dead brilliant.”

– *Maverick Magazine*

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MARK ERELLI

Opening for and accompanying Lori McKenna

Discovered at an impromptu 3AM hotel room jam at a music conference when just 23 years old, Mark Erelli released his self-titled debut in 1999. Since then, he has cultivated an impressive career as an acoustic musician, songwriter, collaborator, and producer.

Erelli has won several prestigious awards, including the Kerrville New Folk contest in 1999 and the 2006 International Song Contest, where a song he co-wrote with Catie Curtis bested 15,000 entries to win the grand prize. For over 10 years, he has maintained a rigorous, international touring schedule, sharing the stage with Dave Alvin, Gillian Welch, John Hiatt and others,

as well appearing at many major folk festivals, including Newport, Philadelphia and Shrewsbury (UK).

In recent years, Erelli has established his reputation as a multi-instrumentalist sideman, accompanying artists such as Lori McKenna and Josh Ritter everywhere from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry to London's Royal Albert Hall. He now has nine records, including collections of western swing (*Hillbilly Pilgrim*), lullabies (*Innocent When You Dream*) murder ballads (*Seven Curses*), and songs of stirring social conscience (*Hope & Other Casualties*, WUMB Folk Radio's #1 record of 2006).



“ *One of the finest contemporary American performers.* ”

– *Telegraph (UK)*



 A circular logo for WCBE 90.5. The number '90.5' is in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, 'WCBE.ORG' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a black background within a white circle.

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2012/2013 SEASON - FIRST HALF

★ **Performance Schedule** ★

LORI MCKENNA
 with Mark Erelli

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - \$22 ADVANCE

CHRISTINE LAVIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 - \$22 ADVANCE

**JOHN WORT HANNAM &
 BRIAN ASHLEY JONES**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - \$20 ADVANCE

JOE CROOKSTON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 - \$20 ADVANCE

PATTY LARKIN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 - \$22 ADVANCE



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SHOWS ARE AT 8PM & TAKE PLACE AT:
 Columbus Performing Arts Center • 549 Franklin Avenue, Columbus, OH

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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