

Six String Concerts Troubadour Newsletter



In This Issue:

- 3 Jeff Black
- 4 Blame Sally
- 5 Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion
- 6 Mark Erelli
- 7 Brian Ashley Jones
- 7 Ellis

Greg Trooper

February 22

Rarely has there been a more aptly named performing songwriter than Greg Trooper.

Over the course of three decades, Trooper has soldiered on through the victories and setbacks unique to a career dedicated to music, and proven that he's one of the best.

Raised in the shore town of Little Silver, NJ Trooper became enthralled with the greater New York area's rich music scene. He discovered a sort of holy musical trinity in the work of Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, and Hank Williams, with their guiding lights of passion, literary dexterity and plainspoken honesty. It's one reason Trooper's music feels equally informed by Memphis soul, Greenwich Village folk and Nashville twang.

Trooper has left his own indelible mark on roots music in all the places he has called home, including Austin, New York, and Nashville. Mary Houlihan, of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, wrote, "his 1998 album, *Popular Demons*, is considered by many to be one of the defining albums of the Americana movement."

Americana, folk rock, soul, country, roots, singer-songwriter, storytelling—all are part of the Trooper package. A true

"Greg Trooper is an amazing writer and recording artist, but he is even better live." - Jeff Powell, WGWG



road trip veteran, Trooper's been known to deliver a trio of full shows in as many states within 24 hours.

But in outer space? Yes, thanks to Trooper fan Stephen Robinson, a NASA astronaut who traveled on the Space Shuttle Discovery during mission STS-114 to the International Space Station, Robinson spacewalked to the strains of Trooper's "Make It Through This World".

Trooper comes to us hot off a second-place win in the Folk/Singer-Songwriter category of the International Songwriting Competition for "This I'd Do", and we are excited to welcome him for his third performance on the Six String stage.



Six String Concerts

Things to remember...

To Purchase Tickets

Online - www.SixString.org

Phone - 614-470-FOLK

Mail - Send a check to:
Six String Concerts
P.O. Box 9330
Columbus, OH 43209-0330

Half Season Tickets

Mark your calendars - you've got plans to see some of the best folk music has to offer! And you'll save \$10 off the advance ticket price

\$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 show
- View concert photos
- Browse an archive of past performances
- Download electronic calendar entries
- Link to artist websites & song samples

Visit www.SixString.org

Letter from the president

Here's the part of this job I love... announcing another exceptional line-up of artists for the second half of our 20th season:

- A seasoned troubadour respected by the Nashville elite
- A bare-knuckle, blue-collar brand of balladeer
- A female foursome with stellar harmonies
- A rising husband & wife duo with legendary family ties
- A songwriter with a #1 folk album on many critics' lists

And I'm also excited to announce some great new changes to our communications that you'll see in the coming weeks... Six String Concerts is advancing to the electronic age.

A New Email Look

Say goodbye to those text-based emails! With our new email system, we'll be better able to communicate with you about upcoming events.

Electronic Calendar Entries

Users of Outlook, iCal, and other programs can now download concert events to your electronic calendars. You can even forward these events to friends to set a date. (Sorry Lotus Notes users, but the calendar files may not work for you... we're working on that!)

Links to Song Samples

Most artists post full-length song samples on their MySpace pages to promote their music. We now link to these pages from our website and emails so you can become familiar with an artist's material before the show.

I trust these new tools will make it easier for you to learn about our concert events, and to share the music with your friends.

But rest assured, our focus is still on the music – and as you'll see in this Newsletter, the second half of our season promises to be a great one.

See you at a show!

- *Kim*

Kim Rice Wilson



Jeff Black

with Brian Ashley Jones - March 14

Jeff Black knew he wanted to be a musician, even before he hit his teens. When he was only 10 years old, the Missouri native persuaded his parents to buy him a guitar. Over the next several years, between school and work, Black taught himself to play. Then, gaining confidence with his instrument of choice, he began writing and singing his own songs.

Though he took a variety of jobs – in warehouses, car washes and gas stations – music was never far from his side. While working as a bouncer at Blayne's blues club in Kansas City, Black got his first break – taking the stage to entertain audiences with his original compositions. It wasn't long before he was touring the nation, opening for Jerry Jeff Walker, John Prine and Maria McKee.

In 1996, Black appeared on recordings with Iris Dement, Sam Bush and Blackhawk. And just two years after that, he put together his own band and recorded the highly acclaimed *Birmingham Road*, for Arista Records. Since then, three more albums



“(Black is) not only a tremendous vocalist and writer, but also a holy-roller piano player and a blazing guitarist.”
– *Music Row*

have followed, each more popular than the previous one.

Employing a bare-knuckled, blue-collar brand of songwriting, he takes raw emotions and crafts them into lyrical stories. Says Black, “I love songs about freeing the spirit, and treating your individuality as something that's precious and important.”

Those efforts have garnered reviews that are nothing short of spectacular. Drawing comparisons to Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and Jackson Browne, music writers have called Black “a musical genius,” a “tremendous vocalist and writer,” and a “holy-roller

piano player and a blazing guitarist.”

As Black makes his way back to Columbus, expect the unexpected. He's the rare artist who's still willing to take chances, and never plays the same show twice. But one thing is sure. You'll walk away singing the praises of this amazingly talented singer-songwriter. 🎸

See Page 7 for Brian Ashley Jones



Six String Concerts

P.O. Box 9330 Columbus, OH 43209-0330

614-470-FOLK

Info@SixString.org

www.SixString.org

Support is provided in part by:



Listen here.

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.

Board of Trustees: Kim Wilson, President | Kevin Corkrean | Doug Evans | Toni Hoepf | Cathi Mehl
Beki Test | Courtney Oakley | Wendy Hansen Smith | Jutta Wait | Eric Wruck

Blame Sally

April 4

Blame Sally, a female foursome from San Francisco, is shaking up the folk-pop scene like an earthquake. When Monica Pasqual, Jeri Jones, Renee Harcourt, and Pam Delgado—all former rock-star wannabes who retired their ambitions but not their talents—got together to make music, a funny thing happened: success! Together their diverse backgrounds and unique voices created a phenomenal, cohesive sound, and their fans can't get enough.

As a toddler Pasqual helped her father play Mozart on their grand piano by operating the pedals. She eventually learned to play the top of the instrument and plays piano, keyboard, accordion, and melodica for Blame Sally.

Jones gave up early plans of a future in dental hygiene to hit the bar-band scene in Boulder, Colorado, and audiences are the better for it. She contributes guitar, bass, dobro, and mandolin.

Harcourt, her father an accomplished jazz musician, plays guitar, bass, banjo, and harmonica. She is known for her talents in graphic design and pop-film soundtrack work as well.



Delgado displayed early percussion talents when she played a triangle in first grade and, not surprisingly, handles percussion duties for the band.

Blame Sally forms a tight semicircle on stage, four women sharing lead and backup vocals, each an accomplished performer in her own right. Their

combination of compelling lyrics, outstanding vocals, and accomplished instrumentation has hooked a growing and diverse fan base.

“Individually, [the band members] have long displayed stirring singer-songwriter gifts. Together they're a powerhouse unit, presenting outstanding lead vocals and harmonies.”

— Palo Alto Daily News

If you ask them what their music sounds like, you'll get, “Sounds like us... sweet full vocals, edgy rhythms, jangly guitars and hooky keys.” All this, and they're having fun, along with enthusiastic audiences from California to Cancun to Columbus. 🎵

Thank You Contributors

On behalf of musicians and lovers of music everywhere, we say Thank You! to those who support Six String Concerts. It is through their generous financial support that we are able to bring nationally recognized emerging and veteran folk artists to Columbus; making this soul-touching art form accessible to all Central Ohioans. We would like to recognize this season's contributors:

Jane Barry, Jack and Pamela Beeler, Linnie Blair, Carol Brigham, Mark Brufladt, Dan and Bonita Cochran, Beth Crane, Steve DiBartola, Albert Erickson III, Doug and Kathy Evans, Tamara Evans, David Faulkner, David Faulkner, Maggie Fenton, Bob and Liz Gitter, Roy Gottlieb, Tom Grigsby, Wendy Hansen-Smith, Sara and Al Harris, Frank Hatcher, Toni Hoepf, Brion Jones, Lucinda Kirk, Teri Leitwein, Renilda Marshall, Jim and Betsy Mattimoe, Michael McBrayer, Ann and Doug Metz, Ellen Moore, Jacqueline Morgan, Barbara Needham, Courtney Oakley, Don and Sue Ann Ordaz, Beryl and Laurie Oser, Peter Pavarini, Judy Platounaris, Tom and Jean Rice, Susan Schulman, Bruce and Peggy Scott, George Shea, John Simpson, Elliot Slotnick, Roy Stein, Ed Sterling, Lois Tilton, Nancy Tomei, Jutta And Ty Wait, Sue Ward, Denny Weese, Alec Wightman, Kim Wilson, & Eric Wruck

Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion

with Ellis - April 18

Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion return to the Six String stage three years after first wowing us with their passion, humor, and spine-tingling folk-rock harmonies. Married since 1999, Guthrie and Irion bring out the best in each other, musically and personally. With bluesy vocal bending, complementary guitar work, and a large catalog of original tunes and poignant covers, they know how to pull out all the stops and drive a rousing concert.

Guthrie, granddaughter of Woody and daughter of Arlo, did not always plan on a musical career, despite being surrounded by music from her youth. After high school graduation in 1997, she served as tour manager for her father. It was there that she got to know the Black Crowes and Chris Robinson. She later moved to L.A. to be around her new rock & roll friends.

“Welch and Rawlings apart, it’s hard to recall two modern country voices that dovetail as elegantly as this husband and wife team... A dream.” —*Uncut*

Meanwhile Carolina indie-rocker Irion had hit the scene as a member of Queen Sarah Saturday and then with Dillon Fence, which toured with Robinson and the Black Crowes. In 1997 Robinson was producing a band called Freight Train and wanted Irion to join it—in L.A.

The timing was perfect. Guthrie and Irion met and started dating. At the same time, he put a guitar into her hands, showed her some chords, and awakened in her the joy of making music. She canceled plans to apply to college and went on tour with her father, this time as a musician, but she always returned to Irion. After they married, they settled in Columbia, SC, his birthplace, where they create beautiful music, writing both together and independently.



See Page 7 for Ellis



Mark Erelli

May 2

Since his debut at age 24, Mark Erelli has exhibited an uncommon musical maturity. In eight short years, he has recorded six highly acclaimed CDs, won top prizes at national and international songwriting competitions and played almost a thousand concerts.

Erelli's rise to fame began in the late 1990s, when he was pulled into an impromptu 3 a.m. jam session in a hotel room. The record executives who were in attendance were impressed enough to offer him a recording contract. In 1999, Erelli finished his master's degree in molecular biology at the University of Massachusetts AND released his self-titled debut CD on Signature Sounds.

Following a win at the prestigious Kerville New Folk contest, Erelli's fledgling career was heralded by Acoustic Guitar magazine as "the beginning of a promising new road." Indeed, it was. In the coming years, he would amaze fans and reviewers alike with an uncanny ability to connect with listeners while moving effortlessly from one style to another.

In 2004, the Massachusetts native teamed with a Boston-based country band to record *Hillbilly Pilgrim*, an entire album of western swing originals, including a duet with Erin McKeown.

Two years later, his *Hope & Other Casualties* raised the bar with a timeless collection of deeply personal



songs the *Washington Post* said "addresses tough issues with the grit of John Hiatt and the melancholy beauty of Ron Sexsmith." The *Boston Globe* describes Erelli's songs simply as, "intimate masterpieces."

"Erelli's gentle vocal inflections and starkly beautiful fingerpicking especially capture the mood... Erelli's solo performances will surely appeal to any fan of stripped-down, genuinely heart-felt folk music." - *Northeast Performer*

Recently, Erelli confounded the critics again, this time by releasing his first all-acoustic record – a collection of lullabies and love songs called *Innocent When You Dream*. Originally intended only as a gift for friends and

family, the new CD features tender renditions of songs by Townes Van Zandt, James Taylor, Tom Waits, Shawn Colvin and others.

Now, at 32, Erelli is looking less like a newcomer and more like an honest and powerful new voice in American music. With an impressive gift for songwriting and a versatility that allows him to move with ease from folk to rock to country, he has established himself as one of the premiere young songwriters making music today. 

To make a tax-deductible donation to Six String Concerts

Please send your check to: Six String Concerts
P.O. Box 9330
Columbus, OH 43209-0330

Know that 100% of your donation goes to support the work of the organization. We are a 100% volunteer organization, including the board members. We are dedicated to bringing the finest performing songwriters to Central Ohio.

Brian Ashley Jones

Opening for Jeff Black - March 14

Brian Ashley Jones is a soulful singer, accomplished lead guitarist, and versatile songwriter who draws from a variety of traditional music to create his own brand of Americana. Described as "Blues Grass",



Jones' music is heavily influenced by the guitar driven blues, bluegrass, country, and rock that he absorbed while growing up in a musically diverse family in South Carolina. Now based in Nashville, Jones maintains an active touring schedule and performs about 150 live shows per year.

His swampy instrumental "Pull 'em Up" has been featured in the widely acclaimed PBS television series *Road Trip Nation*, and the lighthearted bluegrass tune "Johnny Appleweed" has been selected as the theme song of a feature length film of the same name.

Along with his own busy touring schedule, Jones has found time to accompany a diverse batch of artists on stage and in the studio

including Eric Heatherly, Caroline Aiken, Sara Hickman, Donna Hopkins, and Grammy Award winning songwriter Jon Vezner.

Six String Concerts patrons will recall Jones' lead guitar as the driving force from Corinne West's energetic performance last season. 



Ellis

Opening for Guthrie & Irion - April 18

Ellis is a rising star in the independent music scene.

With her joyful, unpretentious acoustic folk rock style, this Minneapolis-based singer-songwriter has been steadily building a loyal fan base and has independently sold more than 30,000 copies of her CDs. Touring nationally, Ellis has accrued a wealth of accomplishments including multiple "Best Musician" titles and several songwriting honors. But even more outstanding is her sincere graciousness and ability to remain down to earth while her career is riding high.



Ellis got her start at age 16, singing her own songs at open mics soon after moving from Texas to Minneapolis. She began touring full-time in 2000, focusing on the women's music scene. Since branching out in 2006, she has created a buzz on the folk music circuit. She was voted "Most Wanted to Return" at the 2006 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, earned a

formal showcase spot at the 2007 Northeast Folk Alliance, won a top five spot in the 2007 Telluride Troubadour contest, and received a standing ovation the main stage at the 2007 Rocky Mountain Folks Festival.

Known for her vibrant and open-hearted nature and contagious sense of humor, Ellis' music is described as joyful, unpretentious modern folk with a slight hint of country inspired by her southern roots.

Although she tours nationally more than 130 dates each year, she maintains a devoted following in Minneapolis where she was voted Best Musician for five consecutive years and named 2007 Best Musical Artist by readers of the Minnesota Women's Press. She is also a favorite on college campuses, and students recently nominated her as 2006 Best Female Performer in *Campus Activities Magazine*. 

Six String Concerts

2007/08 Season - Second Half Performance Schedule



Greg Trooper
February 22

Jeff Black
with Brian Ashley Jones
March 14

**Sarah Lee Guthrie
& Johnny Irion**
with Ellis
April 18

Blame Sally
April 4

Mark Erelli
May 2



For information:
614-470-FOLK
www.SixString.org

All shows 8 p.m. at the
Columbus Performing Arts
Center

Tickets:
\$20 in advance,
\$23 day of show
Discounted half-season
tickets available



Six String Concerts
P.O. Box 9330
Columbus, OH 43209-0330
Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit #4913