



Troubadour

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts

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Ruthie Foster ~ An Engaging, Unique Performer to Close our 17th Season!

May 20, 2005 • Columbus Music Hall

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Ruthie Foster grew up in the tiny town of Gause in deep East Texas and her music is a reflection of that environment and all her subsequent travels. In any one song you'll hear the blues, gospel, r&b, country, and folk. Add to that her experience fronting an 8-piece funk band while she was in the Navy and you've got a performer and songwriter who truly brings something unique to the table.

Often compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin, Ruthie's first album, *Runaway Soul*, showcases those influences and a whole slew of others like Sam Cooke and Curtis Mayfield. Her cover of Texas folk legend Terri Hendrix's 'Hole In My Pocket' brings an unexpected soulful twist to an already great tune, while Ruthie's originals showcase a truly unique songwriting voice that evokes a time when people *knew* music could change things. Ruthie's song 'Crossover' was used in the civil rights documentary *Where Do We Go From Here?* and that spirit of music, as a positive force for personal and societal change, is a key element of Ruthie's music.

In 2003, she and her partner Cyd Cassone made their first appearance on the *Austin City Limits* television show and introduced a nationwide audience

to their unique and soulful sound. That same year, the two broke Ani DiFranco's one-day sales record at the Vancouver Folk Festival!

Last year, Ruthie released *Stages*, her electrifying live album. In support of that album, Ruthie toured the US, Canada, and Europe. During that time, she developed an international fan base around her hybrid of blues, gospel, roots, and folk – rich with honest spirituality and emotion. Six String Concerts is lucky, proud, and pleased to introduce Ruthie to Columbus. 🎸



Ruthie Foster and Cyd Cassone

photo: Laurie Drum


**Six String
Concerts**
celebrating our
17th season!

Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A Special Gift for the Carrie Newcomer & Mustard's Retreat Show

With the help of Pam Brodie and Sara Paulin Casto, the Carrie Newcomer & Mustard's Retreat concert will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing using American sign language. Pam and Sara have agreed to interpret the concert for our friends who need help hearing and feeling the wonderful music that many of us take for granted.

"It's really what Six String Concerts is all about," says Kim Rice Wilson, President. "When we started the organization over 17 years ago, our concept was to give the gift of music to the community of Columbus. I feel very deeply, as do many others, that the power of music has no boundaries."

For each show, Six String Concerts strives to provide a comfortable setting for all people to relax and enjoy an exceptional experience centered around original music and community.

Six String Concerts would like to thank Pam and Sara in advance for their talents. Thanks also to Melissa Brundage for all of her help and coordination. Lastly, we'd like to thank Carrie Newcomer and Mustard's Retreat for their cooperation and support of this service.

To learn more about American sign language, please visit the Ohio School for the Deaf – www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org.

"Though highly specialized, the language faculty is not tied to specific sensory modalities, contrary to what was assumed long ago. Thus, the sign language of the deaf is structurally much like spoken language, and the course of acquisition is very similar... The analytic mechanisms of the language faculty seem to be triggered in much the same ways whether the input is auditory, visual, even tactual, and seem to be localized in the same brain areas, somewhat surprisingly."

~Noam Chomsky



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Carrie Newcomer & Mustard's Retreat

February 18, 2005 • Columbus Music Hall • *Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

"I just have a great love and passion for creating music, for writing, for telling a story," says Carrie Newcomer, who makes no effort to separate her art from the other parts of her life – such as her teaching, family, activism, and spirituality. "Sometimes I think you don't choose from the other parts of your art form; it chooses you and it doesn't let you go because that's who you are. I really believe we are most creative in this world when we're doing something that is by nature what we love and who we are. That's when we give our best. Life is short and I want to give the best of what I am."



Carrie Newcomer

photo: Jim McGuire

And that's what you'll find on her latest recording, *Betty's Diner: The Best of Carrie Newcomer*. It's a collection of fifteen songs, from ten years and eight albums on Rounder/Philo records, as well as three new songs. "The songs focus on relationships and

the human story," says Carrie. "This is a collection about the human condition, as I know it."

One of the things we love about Carrie is that she shares her gift of song with others through songwriting workshops across the country. Last fall, she conducted a workshop at Denison University. Oh yeah, some of the other things we love about Carrie? Find out February 18! 🎵

David Tamulevich and Michael Hough owe their 31 years of existence as Mustard's Retreat to one thing – audiences. Everything Mustard's Retreat does on stage is aimed at pleasing, moving, and engaging their audience. Whether singing their own gentle love songs and vivid ballads, telling tall tales or offering treasures from America's vast traditional song bag, a Mustard's Retreat show always feels like it's designed for the people who have come to see them that day, in that coffeehouse, school, concert hall, or festival. Audiences sense this from the moment David and Michael hit the stage, are drawn to it like hungry kids to Sunday supper and reward it the best way they know how. They come to see Mustard's Retreat again and again. And again.

"As much as we aim to entertain, we also look to educate," David Tamulevich said of the way Mustard's Retreat approaches audiences, "and hopefully enlighten and open some doors they maybe hadn't seen before. And ideally, to create a moment of community where everybody is sharing the same experience, the same idea, the same song. I mean, that's the only reason for me to be up there: we really want that connection to people." 🎵



"[Carrie Newcomer is] a poet, storyteller, snake-charmer, good neighbor, friend and lover, minister of the wide-eyed gospel of hope and grace."

~Barbara Kingsolver, author of *The Poisonwood Bible* and *The Bean Trees*

Tracy Grammer March 11, 2005 • Columbus Music Hall

To address the passing of her her longtime musical partner, Dave Carter, in 2002, Tracy Grammer wrote a song that's poignant yet upbeat on loss and survival. That song became the title track of her new release, *The Verdant Mile*. The EP is comprised of two originals and five beautifully chosen covers.

Tracy reflects on the songs she chose to include

in this project. "These songs are postcards from various points along the Verdant Mile, a mythical field I walk when I need to reconcile with the rivers I cannot turn, the birds that won't come, and my reluctant angels..."

Her dark, ethereal vocals evoke a purity and resonance that brings radiance to the songs she performs and her attention to melody and story lines lend a rare sophistication to her vocal and instrumental interpretations. Her adept accompaniment extends to violin, mandolin, and guitar – yet it is her vocal prowess and intuition that infuse her work with an unmatched quality and has established her as a formidable performer. Dave Carter was perhaps her biggest fan: "Tracy has one of the most beautiful and expressive voices I've ever heard in my life. I was looking for someone with depth and gentleness – as soon as I heard that voice, I knew I had found it."

Since Dave's passing, Tracy has continuously toured the country as a solo act, as well as with Richard Shindell, and as part of Joan Baez's band. "I have no choice but to go on singing, and to go on telling our story," says Tracy, "on behalf of my brilliant partner, and on behalf of every dreamer who stumbles, as I did, upon a profound calling."

Tracy blessed our stage with Richard Shindell in 2003. It is always a pleasure and honor to have Tracy perform in Columbus. And just two months after the show, please don't forget to pick up her first full-length studio recording – a collection of previously unreleased songs written by Dave Carter. 🎵



Tracy Grammer

"I've listened to Tracy's 'The Verdant Mile' over and over and over again. This new collection of songs is simply stunning. I just can't wait until her next CD."

~Bob Feldman, President, Red House Records

"One of the finest, pure musicians anywhere in folkdom."

~The Boston Globe

Dougie MacLean

April 2, 2005 • Martin Janis Center

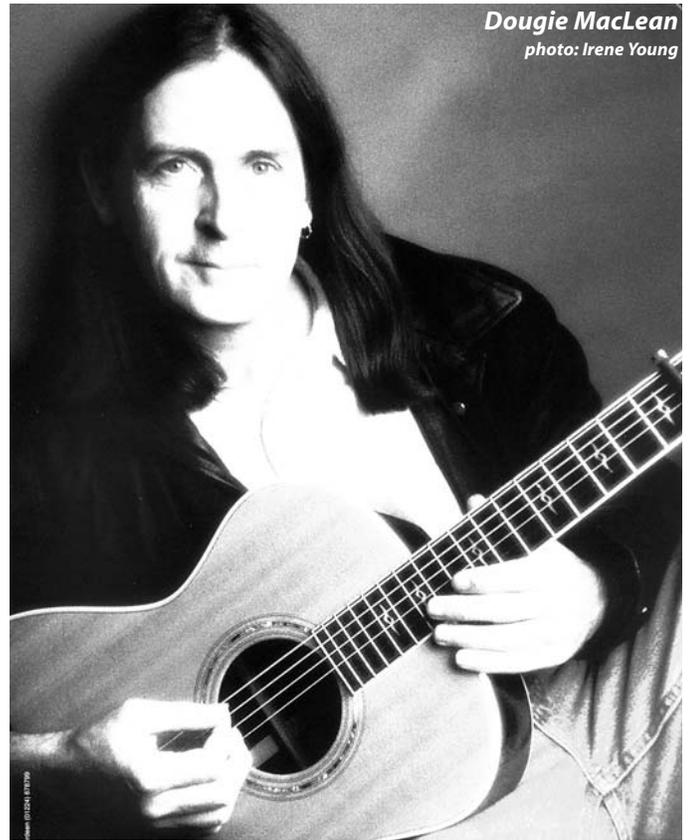
Dougie MacLean is known for fiddle playing, songwriting, and being synonymous with Scottish music. He is one of Scotland's most gifted and successful contemporary singer-songwriters, weaving innovation around fundamental values and ancient Scot culture. 'Caledonia,' a song he wrote nearly two decades ago about Scotland, has become the alternative Scottish anthem.

His influence and contribution to the folk scene runs much deeper than merely being a contemporary Scottish legend. He has developed a well-oiled, sophisticated machine to support his music – demonstrating that folk singer-songwriters can successfully run their own business.

Dougie grew up in a small Scottish town named Dunkeld where he used to play fiddle as a kid with the regulars at the local pubs. After a musical journey that led him to Germany, Dougie returned not only to Scotland, but the same area in which he was born and raised.

The beautiful Atlantic coast of the Isle of Lewis serves as his source of peace and inspiration. Buttermore, as his home and recording studio is known, used to be a remote, one-teacher village school overlooking the nearby, picturesque moors. In 1986, Dougie bought the school house, which he and his father attended, and transformed it into a state-of-the-art recording studio and humble home for himself and his wife, Jenny.

Dougie started a recording company named after and housed in the town of his youth, Dunkeld. His office building also serves as a retail outlet for Jenny's watercolor paintings. "It's a lovely thing to combine all of the arts and



remain in the place where I grew up," he says. "We've got quite a little empire, but it keeps me grounded."

Of his musical operation, he owes much of its success to the Internet. "It gives musicians far more control, so their output isn't forever leaching away into the hands of others," he says. "You're only limited to your own imagination."

If you find yourself in the small town of Dunkeld on any given evening (when Dougie's not touring, of course), you'll find Dougie and Jenny at the Real Music Pub, a local establishment they opened to promote local music. Fiddle and guitar classes are on Thursday evenings and Friday is open mic night. For now, we're pleased to present Scotland's finest in our town. 🍷

"Scotland's greatest living songwriter."

~Celtic World

Eddie From Ohio with Rachel Davis

April 22, 2005 • Martin Janis Center



Eddie From Ohio photo: Jeffrey Prehn

Eddie From Ohio's sound, crossing the common ground of folk and rock, survives on their new album, *This Is Me*. In fact, this CD is sharper, funnier, more moving, and exciting than any of their previous eight releases. After thirteen years, this quartet is still fresh, never stale, and always surprising.

This Is Me is good for the heart, head, and soul. It has all the ingredients that whet Edhead appetites: spectacular harmonies, crisp instrumental performances, and songs that range from thoughtful to joyful, from the ridiculous to the sublime. The characters they create, the weary but tenacious Irishwoman on 'Baltimore,' the wife who has become a stranger to her husband on 'Clear and Present Danger,' and the precociously restless seven-year-old on 'Fly,' come alive. The instrumental textures are bold, varied, maybe even risky, and in the end, more illuminating than on any other EFO release.

In fact, count on *This Is Me* as the long-awaited breakthrough moment for a band whose enduring excellence defies all the rules of pop notoriety and adds up to a story more intriguing than whatever the buzz du jour might be.

Always a pleasure, always something new, never a dull moment – Six String Concerts can't wait to welcome Eddie From Ohio back to Columbus! 🎸

Before she was mobile, Rachel Davis would shake silver bells on her ankles to the rhythm from a song circle. At one-and-a-half, she was singing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' to anyone who asked. Six months later, she was performing with her parents on stage.

Rachael has spent most of her life involved with music in one way or another – leading high school musicals and playing with family and friends. In lieu of her fourth year of high school, she attended Interlochen Arts Academy in Northern Michigan – which also counts Peter Yarrow, Anne Hills, and Jewel (Kilcher) among its alumni.

In September of 2001, Rachael moved from Michigan to Boston and within the span of seven months was awarded a Boston Music Award for Best New Singer-Songwriter. In 2002, Rachael contributed 'Lonely When You're Gone' to the Respond II compilation, which also includes such

luminaries as Joan Baez, Dolly Parton, Ani DiFranco, and Eryka Badu.



Rachel Davis photo: Patrick T. Power

Even though she is from Ann Arbor, we are certain Columbus will give Rachel Davis a warm welcome for her first appearance for Six String Concerts. 🎸

"They've built a great grassroots following. You can see why – they sing great, they play great and they write good songs: the old-fashioned reason to be popular."

~Larry Groce, Mountain Stage

Things to Remember...

Six String Concerts' Website. Whenever you want to know about an upcoming Six String Concerts performance, chat with fellow folk music lovers, know more about the artists that have visited us in the past seventeen years, or enter to win free tickets (see below), check us out at www.sixstring.org!

Win Free Tickets for Each Show. For the first half of the season, two free tickets have been awarded to lucky individuals for every show. It's something new we've started this year and has generated some buzz. Don't miss your chance to win tickets to see your favorite artists. All you have to do is access our website at www.sixstring.org, click on the *Win Two Free Tickets* link and fill out all necessary information.

Half Season Tickets. Treat yourself to a post-holiday present while also saving money! Half-Season tickets, one ticket for each of the remaining shows, are available for only \$70.00. That's a \$10 saving! Please visit our website or call us at 470-FOLK for all the details. The season of giving is not over yet...

\$5 Tickets for 18 and Under. During the first half of this season, we were amazed and pleased to see how many young folk music lovers we have in Columbus. We knew you were out there! To encourage all you future Richard Shindells and Christine Kanes out there to nurture your impeccable taste in good music, we are offering tickets at just \$5 for everyone 18 and under! Check out our website for all the details.



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Tradition is published twice yearly by Six String Concerts, Inc., a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting local, regional and national acoustic singer/songwriters not otherwise heard in Columbus. The concerts are primarily produced in intimate, smoke- and alcohol-free environments which provide mutual satisfaction to the audience and artists.

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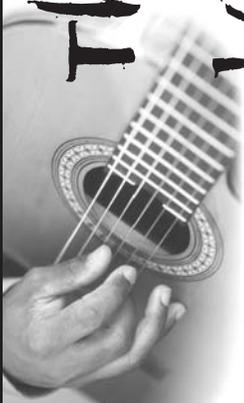
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The Second Half of Our 17th Season

**Carrie Newcomer
& Mustard's Retreat**
Friday, Feb. 18
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

**Eddie from Ohio
with Rachel Davis**
Friday, April 22
Martin Janis Center
\$17 advance, \$19 door

Tracy Grammer
Friday, March 11
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Ruthie Foster
Friday, May 20
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Dougie MacLean
Saturday, April 2
Martin Janis Center
\$18 advance, \$20 door

Ask about half-season discounts. Tickets available at Ticketmaster, CF Bank (cash/check), Twin Rivers Music (cash/check), or from Six String Concerts at (614) 470-FOLK. Online reservations at reservations@sixstring.org or www.sixstring.org.