



# Troubadour

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts

Vol. 10 Issue 1 September 2004

## Iris DeMent Opens Our 17th Season September 24, 2004 • Shedd Theatre

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Iris DeMent is a bit of a paradox. She's been called more country than country and so traditional that she's alternative. Though a bit confusing, it's a very good description of Iris and the beautiful, captivating contradiction that she has become.

Iris was born in rural Arkansas where her family was steeped in poverty and strengthened by religion. Through her close ties to family and Sunday morning services, Iris built her musical foundation that has taken us on journeys of sorrow and forgiveness, redemption and warmth, healing and hope.

With three studio albums to her name, her working credits stop only where she decides to draw the line. She's accompanied artists such as Steve Earle, John Prine, and Emmylou Harris. Collaboration seems to inspire her music and feed her creative soul. Maybe it's from her devotion to family that drives her to develop close relationships with a community of contemporary musicians.

She's been compared to many artists including Loretta Lynn, Hank Williams, Nanci Griffith, Woody Guthrie, and Patsy Cline. But Iris has a style so unique that no one quite matches her insight, intrigue, and impeccable candor.

To further support the paradox that surrounds her music, Merle Haggard summed up the complexity of Iris with this single, simple statement – "the greatest singer I have ever heard."

Dedicated fans plan their calendars around her shows. Unfamiliar but curious listeners leave her live performances as dedicated fans. Whether you're a current fan or a soon-to-be devotee of Iris DeMent, don't miss this opportunity to see this very special performer and performance. 🎸



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

Iris DeMent

Photo: Mark Tucker

A message from the President

## Welcome to our 17th season...

We have been working this summer to bring you another fantastic season of concerts by some of the finest singer-songwriters in the country. As always, our artists range from Six String Concerts favorites to those brand new to the Columbus area. We also have a new and improved website; designed over the summer by dedicated volunteers excited to provide you with all the information you need to know about our organization.

Six String Concerts remains healthy and strong thanks to the efforts of so many. Our organization is run entirely by volunteers who donate their time and talent in order to keep the music playing. One of those very special volunteers is Angela Miller. Angela joined the Six String Concerts board over 14 years ago. Angela has worn many hats over the years, the most visible being that of PR & Advertising director. Angela has literally been the voice of Six String Concerts, writing every press release, drafting every program, creating every newsletter, crafting every concert reminder, posting all website articles, and preparing every advertisement. Angela has

generously contributed countless hours, assuring that the community knows about the Six String Concerts organization and all its activities. Without Angela's effort, talent, and commitment, we would clearly not have experienced the growth and success that we enjoy today. Without her dedication, organization, and caring, you may not ever have had the opportunity to discover Six String Concerts for yourself! Without her unique and sharp sense of humor, we would have missed years of fun and laughter. After 14 years, Angela has made the decision to step down from this role. We will sadly let her go into a well-deserved retirement. We send with her a heartfelt "thank-you" for the incredible gift she has given us all.

We all look forward to another very special Six String Concerts season. Try to remember when you first discovered Six String Concerts and consider introducing a friend during the season. Hope to see you and your friends this season!

Kimberly Rice Wilson  
President  
Six String Concerts, Inc.



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Congratulations on your seventeenth season!**

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# Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman with Jonathan Byrd

October 22, 2004 • Columbus Music Hall

Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman met on stage and have been playing music together ever since. Their style is an elusive blend of all the music they love – weaving pop, soul, jazz, blues, and everything in between into their modern folk amalgam.

From their first studio recording in 1988 to their latest studio release “All My Excuses”, Karen’s brilliant voice continues to explore the textures and soundscapes of Pete’s guitar. The result is a big sound that is truly unique.

Live, Pete’s funky bass lines and soothing acoustic leads loop through Karen’s steady conga beat. But it’s her voice that brings the duo to soaring heights and the audience to their feet.



**Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman**

Photo: Jon Leibing

Karen’s range is drawing attention from critics and musicians alike. Matt Hopper from the Anchorage Daily News has this description – “With only a few inflections of the voice, she can croon like an angel or tempt like a devil, share her love with a fluttering pass or drag your heart through the mud with a raspy snarl.” And the godfather of Iowa folk Greg Brown says, “If she were a Native American, her name would be Sings Like Two Birds.”

October is your opportunity to see and hear for yourself. 🎪

What a treat for us to have Jonathan Byrd on our stage. Expect big things to happen for this talented newcomer and all-around nice guy.

Being one of six winners of the prestigious New Folk competition at the Kerrville Folk Festival in 2003, Jonathan shares this recognition with some pretty good company – Lyle Lovett, Nanci Griffith, and Shawn Colvin to name a few previous winners.

Referred to as a young Doc Watson, Jonathan draws on his love for traditional music. “The old world was not really different from today’s world,” Jonathan says. “Discovering the language and stories of that older world has shown me the essence of the human experience.”

Find out why Scott Alark of the Boston Globe says he’s “the most buzzed-about new songwriter in folkdom.” Trust us, you don’t want to miss Jonathan Byrd! 🎪



**Jonathan Byrd**

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*“I urge you all to seek Karen Savoca out. Buy “All My Excuses” right away. Just don’t forget to thank me later.”*

– Andrew Griffin, *The Town Talk*, Alexandria, LA

# Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion with John Flynn

November 19, 2004 • Columbus Music Hall

"I'm as high as a Georgia pine, since you've been on my mind." And so sing Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion on the first track of their latest EP, "Entirely Live". Recorded during an opening set for Sarah Lee's father, Arlo Guthrie, the last three tracks feature Arlo and Sarah's brother, Abe. Simply outstanding.



Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion

Traveling a trail blazed by her grandfather, the legendary Woody Guthrie, and further explored by her father, Sarah Lee has embraced the music and lifestyle of her roots. Sarah Lee has hung on to the traditional stories and poetry of her past, while defining her own unique elegance in the spotlight. Combining Johnny's love of rock and blues with her roots of folk and country, they have developed an original sound that blends entertaining stories with echoes of time-honored songs of the past.

Their first studio recording as a duo is scheduled for a Fall 2004 release. Produced by Gary Louris of The Jayhawks and Ed Ackerman, it will no doubt top the list of must-have recordings for any music lover.

Since Sarah Lee and Johnny agreed to make Columbus a stop on their travels, we've been high as a Georgia pine. Once you see this amazing duo, you will be too. 🎸

As a young father, John Flynn left his job as a Nashville staff songwriter and began writing songs for his kids. These songs yielded recordings that are filled with John's trademark humanity and humor, tools that he sees as essential for parenthood and for life.

The former political science major examines social justice issues on his current release, "Dragon" – his second paring with producer/Grammy winner Ben Wisch. Studio legends Shawn Pelton, Duke Levine, and Stephanie Winters head an all-star cast of musicians, with Jane Kelly Williams and songwriter/actor Kris Kristofferson on backing vocals.

When asked whose music he listens to, Mr. Kristofferson replied, "... it's to songwriters like John Prine, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and Merle Haggard. I love George Jones, Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles. New guys like Shawn Mullins, Todd Snider and John Flynn."

What does Mr. Kristofferson know that you don't? Come see John and find out! 🎸



John Flynn Photo: Jim Graham

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*"Johnny Irion plays mean acoustic and steel guitars and sings like a soulful bird, perfectly matching Sarah Lee Guthrie's sweet and winsome, but sometimes steel-edged voice. This folk duo performs a fascinating, nostalgic and entertaining mix of their own songs and those of others"*

~Post and Courier, Charleston, SC

# The Burns Sisters with Chuck Brodsky

December 10, 2004 • 1st Unitarian Universalist Church

Strength in numbers – this old adage can be applied to The Burns Sisters. Each is a strong woman, tapping into her own experiences of love, pain, fear, and victory. Collectively, when they bring those life lessons to the table, the results are exponentially layered with depth and meaning.



The Burns Sisters

Annie, Jeannie, and Marie possess and play one of the most hallowed instruments anyone can master – the human voice. From joyous harmonies to

mournful laments, the Burns Sisters explore the widest spectrum of human emotions, weaving powerful and nuanced voices in every tune. All we have to do is open our ears, hearts, and minds as we float into their songs and stories.

Growing up in Upstate New York in a family of twelve children, the trio discovered their musical talents at an early age. As they honed their skills, they unconsciously sensed one another's shifts, where and when each wanted to take certain songs. "We read each others' minds," says Jeannie. "We just know one another so well. You're so close that you can be completely honest with one another."

Performing in December, The Burns Sisters will undoubtedly play a few favorites from *Tradition: Holiday Songs Old & New*. See for yourself how familiar standards breathe new life through their unparalleled harmony.

Experience the tight, beautiful harmony only few have been able to achieve. Strength in numbers – this old adage can be applied for our community of folk lovers in Central Ohio. Come support the return of The Burns Sisters to Six String Concerts and let them know they are always welcome in Columbus. 🎪

Keep your fingers crossed and close your eyes. Count to three and rub your rabbit's foot. If this is what it takes to get Chuck Brodsky to Columbus, then we're going to do it!

Chuck was scheduled to open for Kate Campbell last season, but unfortunately had to cancel due to a broken rib. We had been trying to bring him to Columbus for several years. When you hear him, you'll know why we tried so hard and why we're thrilled that he is part of our 17th season.

When you see him perform, his song introductions are as spellbinding as his colorful lyrics, brought to life by his well-traveled, conversational voice. His groove-oriented



Chuck Brodsky

strumming and fingerpicking draw on influences from the mountains of Western North Carolina where he now lives.

December is still a few months away. Remember – fingers crossed. One, two, three... 🎪

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*"Good grief, these women can sing! Best blood harmony since the Everly Brothers."*

~Music Row, Nashville

# Ellis Paul Returns with Special Guest SONiA

January 28, 2005 • Columbus Music Hall

From the potato fields of Northern Maine, to coffee houses of the Boston folk scene, to Carnegie Hall, cries and whispers continue to ride the wave of Ellis Paul's tenor. Well-known for his passionate and literate character sketches, Ellis is a uniquely talented performer and a generous caretaker of his audiences and growing number of fans.



Ellis Paul

Photo: Liz Linder

Applause and accolades follow Ellis wherever he performs. He won the Kerrville Best New Folk Award and garnered 11 Boston Music Awards. USA Today considers him a "Best Bet for Stardom" and Dirty Linen magazine called Ellis "one of contemporary folk music's most influential voices."

Ellis's latest release, *Side of the Road*, is a project with another Six String Concerts favorite Vance Gilbert. Though Ellis and Vance have shared stages for more than a decade, *Side of the Road* is their first recording collaboration. The emotional aftershocks of 9/11 are everywhere, from Paul's opening cover of Mark Erelli's "The Only Way" to Gilbert's soaring and soothing vocals on Van Morrison's "Comfort You."

Thoroughly professional. Refreshingly innocent. A true artist. Come experience the gift of a growing legend during his fourth Six String Concerts performance. 🎸

Even though the math doesn't quite compute, SONiA is made up of three quarters activism and three quarters artistry. Drawing from a well of social consciousness, SONiA's message is powerfully delivered through passionate lyrics and six strings. The Provincetown Banner says she's "an instinctual storyteller with this seductive voice and folk guitar playing that can't be matched."

Her latest release, *No Bomb is Smart*, is getting attention from established fans and fellow musicians alike. Of this latest project, Dar Williams said, "SONiA's voice and musicality grabbed me first, and then, of course, the lyrics were equally rewarding. Just beautiful!"

Through 2004, SONiA has performed at various venues in India and has traversed the US and Canada. She has lent her talent to the March for Women's Lives in Washington, DC and now, she graces Columbus with her first appearance for Six String Concerts. 🎸



SONiA

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*"Ellis Paul is among the best of the new breed of writers. His images are rich and speak of issues most of us sweep away to another place. His songs speak about real people, the people many of us never see, those in need of understanding... lost people... characters who reflect the polarization of society, a society losing its grip on compassion."*

~Dick Pleasants, former producer/host of *The Folk Heritage* for WGBH in Boston

# A New Website and Free Tickets Too?

A few announcements we thought worthy of mentioning.

**Six String Concert's Improved Website.** Even though our mission is still the same, we have a new look and some new things to offer on the Web. Now you can chat with fellow folk music lovers about the recent concert, enter to win free tickets (see below), and much more. Check us out at [www.sixstring.org](http://www.sixstring.org)!

**Win Free Tickets for Each Show.** We're trying something new this year – 2 free tickets for every show. That's right, here's your chance to win tickets to see your favorite artists. All you have to do is access our website at [www.sixstring.org](http://www.sixstring.org), click on the Win 2 Free Tickets link, fill out all necessary information, and start praying. Make sure you check the website for more information.

**Half Season Tickets.** How would you like to save \$10.00 on these first five shows? Half-Season tickets are available for only \$70.00. That's \$2.00 off each concert ticket. Please visit our website for all the details. They make great gifts too!

**\$5 Tickets for 18 and Under.** This year, we encourage you to take a niece, nephew, younger sibling, or neighbor to a show and share the gift of music. Again, our website has all the details.

**Columbus Performing Arts Center.** The S.S. Davis Center has a new name – the Columbus Performing Arts Center. Located at 549 Franklin Avenue, the Shedd Theatre calls it home. It's still the same great place, just more aptly named.



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*Trumbador* is published twice yearly by Six Sting 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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# Our 17th Season



**Iris DeMent**

Friday, Sept. 24  
 Shedd Theatre  
 \$20 advance, \$22 door

**Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman**

with Jonathan Byrd  
 Friday, Oct. 22  
 Columbus Music Hall  
 \$15 advance, \$17 door

**Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion**

with John Flynn  
 Friday, Nov. 19  
 Columbus Music Hall  
 \$15 advance, \$17 door

**The Burns Sisters**

with Chuck Brodsky  
 Friday, Dec. 10  
 UUC  
 \$15 advance, \$17 door

**Ellis Paul**

with SONiA  
 Friday, Jan. 28  
 Columbus Music Hall  
 \$15 advance, \$17 door

**Carrie Newcomer & Mustard's Retreat**

Friday, Feb. 18  
 Columbus Music Hall  
 \$15 advance, \$17 door

**Tracy Grammer**

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

**Dougie MacLean**

Saturday, April 2  
 UUC  
 \$18 advance, \$20 door

**Eddie from Ohio**

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

**May – To be determined**

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