

ALSO
IN THIS ISSUE

2 Our New Look

3 Randall Williams

4 Jason Wilber

5 Chris O'Brien

6 Kate Campbell

7 Our Sponsors



CATIE CURTIS with Randall Williams

Friday, September 26

Slip the songs of Catie Curtis into your soul. The Boston-based singer/songwriter is the first show of our 21st season.

Curtis' percussive guitar playing style and skilled songwriting earned her the grand prize (from over 15,000 entries) at the 2005 prestigious International Songwriting Competition for co-writing the song "People Look Around" with Mark Erelli.

You'll find her voice, pure and rich, is a gift. Her songs, full of peace, desire, and sometimes political critique – will reconnect you with the good world.

Scott Alarik, author of *Deep Community*, and contributor to the *Boston Globe* writes "Any fool can write a love-gone-wrong song, but it takes a genius to write a love-gone-right song. No urban songwriter does that better than Curtis." And really, how long has it been since you've heard a genius sing?

Curtis has co-written songs with Mark Erelli, sung with Barenaked Ladies (fully-clothed, we might add) and has been likened to both Nanci Griffith and Shawn Colvin in songwriting style and ability. Once you hear her live, you'll find she stands alone.

You'll carry the rich sound of her voice home with you – not only because you can't get her songs out of your head, but because you're sure to want her brand new CD *Sweet Life* due out September 9. It's already being heralded as "grounded, playful and unshakable,"



“One of the melodic delights of our age.”

– Boston Herald

and “full of spiritual courage and confidence.”

The *New Yorker* calls Curtis a “folkrock goddess,” *Performing Songwriter* calls her a singer/songwriter of “the finest kind.” Come let Catie wrap her music around you. In a world where peace is sometimes hard to come by, this performer will bring us the gift that we always need: time inside the song.

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

DISCOUNTED STUDENT TICKETS

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.

\$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 shows
- View concert photos
- Browse an archive of past performances
- Link to artist websites & song samples

www.SixString.org

★★ A LETTER FROM KIM ★★

WE'RE UPDATING OUR IMAGE.

After 20 years, anything can use a little freshening up. So this season you'll notice a major update to the Six String Concerts brand.

The creative folks at SBC Advertising generously donated their time and considerable talents to lead us through this process. From the beginning, they understood what makes the Six String Concerts experience unique, and incorporated those elements into a logo and brand feel that reflects the nature of our organization and the artists we present:

- AUTHENTIC
- HANDCRAFTED
- INTIMATE
- INVITING

To that list, I would add "Professional" and "Polished"; a proper representation of the enduring nature of our organization and the respect we've earned in the local and national artistic community.

In our new logo, the familiar guitar image has been updated and remains an integral part of who we are. It conveys the hand-made nature of the acoustic music we present. And we've emphasized the "Six String" part of our name over "Concerts".

This season, you'll see this new brand image incorporated into everything we do – from our website, to our programs, to the performance space itself. (Even our coffee mugs!)

A world of thanks to the SBC Advertising creative team who spent evenings, weekends and time between "real work" assignments. Not only is the product of their work exceptional, they've been an energetic, creative, and fun team to work with throughout the process.

The result is not just what you see before you. It's also re-commitment to give you more of what you've come to expect from us – a unique musical experience, more of the performers you have come to love, and an introduction to new emerging artists.

Here's to a new season, a new look, and a new excitement. We hope you like it.

See you at the show!

KIM-

KIM WILSON
President,
Six String Concerts



RANDALL WILLIAMS

Friday, September 26

The first important thing to know about former Worthington resident Randall Williams is that he took classical training in voice (he's a baritone), analysis, and harmony at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Mons, Belgium, where he graduated at the head of his class.

The second is that he swapped a promising future in classical music for his primal love, folk music, and embarked on a global odyssey with guitar in hand. A somewhat circuitous route – through villages in the Baltic and North Seas, and across the Sahara – brought him to his current career as a performing songwriter, maker of an instructional video, and workshop leader.

Williams has become a festival fan favorite: finalist in the Founder's Title and Mid-Atlantic Song Contests; regional finalist at Kerrville; showcase artist at Northeast, Midwest, and International Folk Alliance gatherings; and Audience Favorite at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

The itinerant Williams believes in folk music for its inclusiveness and the synergy between performer and audience. He makes new friends all over the planet and mines his life experiences for songs.

Williams' ambitious schedule, as posted on www.WhereIsRandall.com (of course!), attests to his love of the wanderlust lifestyle. He endures long drives and other time-consuming aspects of the profession simply for the joy of engaging an audience and sharing his gifts. Mindful of his debt to his fans, he expresses heartfelt thanks to them for attending his gigs, so that he can do what he loves to do: perform.

Williams in a nutshell, in his words: "Anybody'll tell you their stories if you just sit with them long enough." The stories he has been told are the raw material for his deep, sometimes heart-wrenching lyrics woven into dazzling tapestries with the warp and weft of melodic chords and colorful characters. The end result infuses his work with palpable authenticity.



“Randall has lived some amazing adventures. In ‘Praying for Land,’ we can feel his bold heart calling us all to follow our dreams.”

– David Wilcox



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 | Wendy Hansen Smith | Jutta Wait | Eric Wruck

SUPPORT IS PROVIDED IN PART BY:



THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

GAC
CITY OF COLUMBUS GRANTS PROGRAM
GRANTER COLUMBUS ARTS COUNCIL



P.O. BOX 9330 COLUMBUS, OH 43209-0030

★ 614.470.FOLK ★

WWW.SIXSTRING.ORG INFO@SIXSTRING.ORG

TWO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RISING TALENTS IN ONE SHOW!

★ JASON WILBER & CHRIS O'BRIEN ★

Saturday, October 18

JASON WILBER

Saturday, October 18

Jason Wilber is an all-around musician: he writes, he sings, and he has lead guitar credits for some of the best folk, rock, and country acts on the planet, including John Prine, Hal Ketchum, Greg Brown, Todd Snider, Greg Trooper, Carrie Newcomer, and Iris DeMent.

Wilber's collaboration with Prine yielded a 2006 Grammy Award for the album *Fair & Square* and a pair of Grammy Award nominations for the albums *Live On Tour* and *In Spite Of Ourselves*.

Five CDs into his solo recording endeavors, Wilber performs on the road and does house concerts and private parties. His sound brings to mind John Prine, Paul Simon, and Randy Newman.

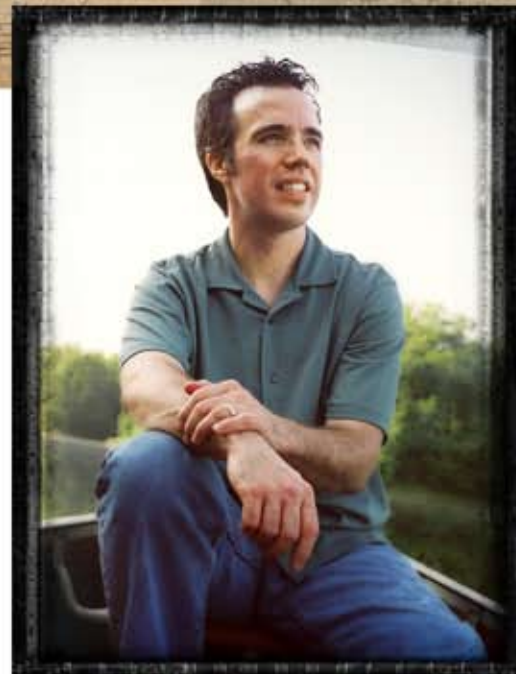
If you listen closely, you'll hear the applause of your fellow Six String patrons on his album *Live and Otherwise Volume 1*, two songs of which were recorded on our stage.

Wilber's original songs breathe insightful commentary and run from mellow to lively with a big dash of country. He has been featured on TV and radio broadcasts including *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Sessions At West 54th*, *Austin City Limits*, *Live with Regis and Kathy Lee*, *CNN's Entertainment Week*, *the Road*, *Mountain Stage*, *E-Town*, and *The Grand Ole Opry*.

As if playing with friends and pursuing a solo performing career were not enough, Wilber hosts his own weekly radio program *In Search of a Song*, a platform for informal discussions and collaborations with guest singer-songwriters. Wilber draws on the talents of his many musical friends – Arlo Guthrie, Sam Bush, Bela Fleck, Del McCoury, John Prine, and Old Crow Medicine Show, to name a few – to explore the creative process and the mind of the songwriter on the air.

“His heartland background gives him authenticity and his heartbreaker's voice makes it all work...”

– Option's Inside Report



Central Ohio's NPR Station

90.5
WCBE

Listen here.

WE'RE NOT YOUR
GRANDPARENTS'
RADIO STATION!

eclectic music • news • entertainment

www.wcbe.org

TWO NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RISING TALENTS IN ONE SHOW!

★ JASON WILBER & CHRIS O'BRIEN ★

Saturday, October 18

CHRIS O'BRIEN

Saturday, October 18

Not every 12-year-old, aspiring singer-songwriter is lucky enough to have a family friend like Dar Williams give him his first guitar lesson, but that's how Chris O'Brien began his music career.

After that, it was his raw talent, passion for the folk music genre, and plain old stick-to-itiveness (he and his band once traveled through a blizzard to play for 5 people), that led him to be named one of Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's "Emerging Artists," a finalist in the Mountain Stage song competition, and to perform on A Prairie Home Companion's "People in Their Twenties" talent contest – all in 2007.

The Amherst, Massachusetts, native also released his first album, *Lighthouse*, early that same year to much critical and audience acclaim. *Performing Songwriter Magazine* said of his debut effort: "[his] lyrics are full of the sweet poetry that only emerges when one's soul has been wounded, but yet are full of beauty and, well, light." And *The Eagle Times* called O'Brien "an uncommonly talented lyricist with a voice that feels comfortable and familiar at first listen."

As is true with any great writing, "the goal, says O'Brien, is not only to talk about what inspires you, but to talk about what is true about humans in general."

In fact, his husky tenor and soulful, yet uplifting lyrics so captivated the national audience when he played on A Prairie Home Companion, that he earned the financial backing to quit his day job and devote himself full time to the troubadour life.

His tour schedule in 2008 has taken him across the country, from California to Oregon, and back to his beloved Club Passim in Boston. Oh yes – he stopped long enough in Memphis to be chosen as a showcase artist at the International Folk Alliance Conference. We are thrilled to welcome him for his first performance on the Six String stage.



“...an uncommonly talented lyricist with a voice that feels comfortable at first listen.”

– The Eagle Times



KATE CAMPBELL

Saturday, November 15

Southern powerhouse Kate Campbell first joined us a dozen years ago promoting her debut, *Songs From The Levee*. She returns with a dozen albums covering a broad landscape of stories, issues, and musical genres. Campbell is joined on her new CD, *Save The Day*, by friends Spooner Oldham, John Prine, Nanci Griffith, Mac McAnally, Pierce Pettis, Tom Kimmell, and Cindy Walker.

Campbell comes upon her Southern soul honestly. The daughter of a Baptist preacher, she was born in New Orleans but grew up in Sledge, Mississippi, a small Delta town 50 miles south of Memphis. Her youth found her singing from the Baptist hymnal and embarking on a spiritual journey that would help shape her view of the civil rights movement, a cause about which she sings with heartfelt commitment.

The carefully crafted lyrics of Campbell's songs are inspired by her social sensibility and informed by her familiarity with Southern literature and knowledge of Southern history,

in which she earned a Masters degree. For a time she taught college history in Nashville while also honing her songwriting skills.

Some of Campbell's songs draw on comparisons between historical figures and how they in fact have something in common. She faces the complex issues of race, religion, and human relationships, skillfully blending history, memories, and music to make unflinching statements that express her vision.

Campbell was honored by a Ballet Memphis production, titled *South Of Everywhere*, based on her songs. She has been enthusiastically welcomed at the Cambridge Folk Festival (England), Port Fairy folk Festival (Australia), Philadelphia Folk Festival, and Merlefest and made appearances on NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Car Talk, and Live From Mountain Stage.



“Possessed of the lyrical grasp of Lucinda Williams and the eloquent vocal timbre of Emmylou Harris, she is a major talent.”

— TIME OUT



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US OUT?

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.

★ ★ ★ A WORD ABOUT OUR SPONSORS ★ ★ ★

As we pass the 20 year milestone as an organization, we'd like to thank the many sponsors who support us with their donations, talents or products and services. We look at these sponsorships as true partnerships with organizations that share the commitment to expanding our unique brand of music in the local community.

We're proud of the enduring relationships we've built over the years, and we'd like to introduce you to our newest sponsor, Espresso Yourself Music Café in Powell.

What do Espresso Yourself Music Café and Six String Concerts have in common? Originality and creativity in great singer/songwriters, a safe and inviting alcohol-free venue in which to imbibe the music, and really good coffee and cookies!

A straight shot North from Columbus on 315 and a quick left onto Powell Road, Espresso Yourself Music Café – that cool old renovated white clapboard church in downtown Powell – is an easy ride to some fine local music.

Eric Ahlteen and his son Ben opened the doors to Espresso Yourself in January of 2007. It's been evolving as a singer/songwriter hangout and venue ever since. "I was in here when this place was still an antique store," says Eric. "I stuck my head around the corner and said 'if I owned this place, right there's where the stage would be.'"

And right there is where it was – centered between two orange and yellow stained glass windows – until a few weeks ago when, after meeting with a sound design consultant, Eric decided that moving the stage to one end of the room would give the artists and even better sound than they already had.

"It's all about respecting the musician," he says. "And it's all about inspiration." A passionate singer/songwriter himself, Eric is all about giving the up-and-comers a place to play. After three years of talking, planning, and researching the industry, he cashed in everything and opened this space, complete with a panini sandwich menu, coffee baristas ready to serve you any number of marvelous coffee concoctions – the beans are roasted locally at the downtown Café Brioso – and home-baked cookies, among other yummy treats. Art by local artists decorates the walls, comfortable green and orange naugahyde couches surround the stage, and behind those, a number of sturdy wooden tables and chairs. The room is full of good vibes.

"On any given day," Eric says, "I'd like to be able to look out any of these windows and see guitar players just hanging out, maybe a mandolin player out under that old oak, and a group of songwriters working out a new tune on the porch."

Eric and Ben Ahlteen have a vision: to give us all a place to listen to and play great music. The two of them work hard to make that vision clear and real every day. They bake, they brew, they write, they play, they inspire. "And we have a lot of fun," Eric says. "That's what I call success."

In fact it's Espresso Yourself coffee and cookies you will be chowing down on at Six String shows from now on! We know you can hardly wait for that! For more information, visit: www.EspressoYourselfMusicCafe.com



WCBE - 90.5 FM

Sponsor since: 1988



Greater Columbus Arts Council

Sponsor since: 1990



Moody's Printing & Office Supply

Sponsor since: 1991



The Columbus Foundation

Sponsor since: 1994



Fifth Avenue Fret Shop

Sponsor since: 2004



Due Amici Restaurant

Sponsor since: 2006



Espresso Yourself Music Café

Sponsor since: 2008



SBC Advertising

Sponsor since: 2008



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

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



2008/09 SEASON - FIRST HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

} **Catie Curtis with Randall Williams**

Friday, September 26

} **Jason Wilber & Chris O'Brien**

Saturday, October 18

} **Kate Campbell**

Saturday, November 15

} MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

20th ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Cheryl Wheeler & John Gorka

Saturday, April 18, 2009
 (\$30 advance tickets)



All shows are 8 p.m. at the
COLUMBUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS (except as noted):

\$20 IN ADVANCE **\$23** DAY OF SHOW

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

VISIT: **WWW.SIXSTRING.ORG**

CALL: **614.470.FOLK**