



Troubadour

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts
Vol, 12 Issue 1 August 2006

Christine Lavin

& Dan Frechette

September 15 - CPAC

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As a songwriter, Christine Lavin brings the shrewd insights & salty witticisms of a humor columnist together with a novelist's eye for evocative details. Abundantly clever & unabashedly fond of a good laugh, she has become the wry musical voice of the post-Boomer, pre-Gen X generation. Her work has been described as "captivating" (Billboard), "enchanting" (Cosmopolitan), and the Boston Globe called her "the classic American troubadour." Lavin is also widely known as the impresario behind feisty, folky femmes fatales, Four Bitchin' Babes. Even better, she was instrumental in helping Six String



C. Lavin - photo courtesy poeinmo.com

Concerts find its way in the music world. Christine headlined our second concert, helped us select artists & even served on our board for a while in the early 90s!

Lavin grew up in a family of nine children & is self-taught on guitar, having learned how to play by watching lessons broadcast on public television when she was 12 years old.

"A garrulous comic observer of contemporary manners"

- New York Times

Her witty songs, hilarious on-stage presentation & irreverent attitude have enlivened the folk scene for more than 20 years. Based in New York, Lavin worked her way up through the city's club scene to become an internationally popular performer & recording artist. She has won multiple awards including two New York Music Awards & four ASCAP composer awards.

In 1998, Lavin was honored by the release of Big League Babe, a 2-CD tribute containing versions of her songs secretly recorded by more than two dozen singer/songwriters as a surprise for her.

Lavin is also a published author, essayist & a frequent guest host of the popular "Sunday Breakfast" show on WFUV, Fordham University's public radio station in New York. What doesn't this lady do? She'll even knit with concert-goers before the show! So bring your needles (or not) & join us on Friday, 9/15 for a great evening. 🧶

Dan Frechette...

...is a musical force. Just 29 years old, the Winnipeg-based singer/songwriter has written more than 1,300 songs. With his first full-length solo recording, Lucky Day, (cont. on page 2)



**Six String
Concerts**
celebrating our
19th season

Dan Frechette... (cont. from page 1)

Frechette brings his knowledge and songwriting chops to bear on an album that brims with his unabashed enthusiasm and crackles with the sound of a writer clearly discovering the top of his game.

Lucky Day is the ebullient expression of all of Dan Frechette's multi-faceted musical influences — a distillation of all he has learned since he was a little kid in the early '80s, listening to his uncle's scratchy



Dan Frechette - photo by Haley Catton

Johnny Horton and Chubby Checker LPs. You could call it the culmination of a journey. But Dan Frechette's trip has only just begun.

"Frechette, blessed with an enormous talent - a facility for adapting elemental folk forms - bluegrass, Celtic airs, country, ragtime, country blues - to his purpose, the likes of which I haven't heard since Dylan's first recordings."

-Greg Quill - Toronto Star

Letter from the President

Wow! Can you believe we've been together for nearly two decades now? It just seems to get better with each passing year, & this year is no exception.

In addition to the 10 fantastic concerts last season, we successfully transitioned to our new home, the Columbus Performance Arts Center (CPAC). We were happy to see that many of you tried & liked our new online ticket ordering - Etix; & even happier to receive your feedback through our newsletter & web site survey. In addition to suggestions & comments, we gathered some fun & interesting information. See page 7 for the highlights. Thanks to everyone who participated!

We've been working hard this summer getting ready for another great season - & what a year it's going to be! Some of the nation's finest performing songwriters will be on the Six String stage this year. There are "tried & true" artists (who have developed quite a following in Central Ohio) joined by brand new talent who we know you'll love.

So beyond bringing you great music, what do we hope to accomplish this season? Well, we want this music to be heard by as many people as possible. That's where you can help! Even after 19 years, I still meet folk music lovers who have never heard of or attended a Six Sting Concert. This season,

Spread the word about Six String Concerts!

bring a friend, family member, co-worker, or other acquaintance new to Six String Concerts with you.

Your guest, the artists, & the entire Six String Concert community will thank you for it

See you (& someone new!) at the show.
- *Kim*

Things to Remember...

Six String Concerts' Website - If you want to know about an upcoming Six String Concerts performance, learn more about the artists who have performed or enter to win free tickets (see below), check us out at www.sixstring.org!

We want to hear your opinions...take a moment to complete our survey online or talk with us at an upcoming concert. We value your input.

Win Free Tickets for Each Show - 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 - Mark your calendars - you've got plans every month to see some of the best folk music has to offer! Purchase a half-season ticket... you'll have a ticket to each of the first five shows of the season and have saved an extra \$10 over the in-advance price. Please visit our website or call us at 470-FOLK for all the details.

\$5 Tickets for 18 and Under - To encourage all the future John Grogas and Patty Larkins out there to nurture an 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.

John Gorka

& Jess Klein

October 27 - Martin Janis Center

NJ native, John Gorka, famed for his rich, expressive, baritone, is one of the leading light of the new folk movement. He took up banjo as a child but his career took off while attending Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. He performed in school coffeehouse programs & formed the Razy Dazy Spasm Band, a non-traditional bluegrass, country, blues & folk band. (Fellow performer, Richard Shindell would later join the group.)



John Gorka - courtesy of johngorka.com

"the quintessential urban folksinger"

-Boston Globe

It was at Godfrey Daniels, a coffeehouse on the south side of Bethlehem, PA where Gorka discovered the kind of performer he wanted to become. A small neighborhood coffeehouse and listening room, it has long been a hangout for music lovers & aspiring musicians. By the early 80's he was the virtual house opening act. Soon he found himself living in the club's basement & acting as resident emcee & soundman, encountering legendary folk troubadors like Stan Rogers, Eric Andersen, Tom Paxton & Claudia Schmidt. Their brand of folk-inspired acoustic music inspired him. Soon he started traveling to NYC, where Jack Hardy's infamous Fast Folk circle became a powerful source of education & encouragement. Folk meccas like Texas' Kerrville Folk Festival (where he won the New Folk Award in '84) & Boston followed. His stunningly soulful baritone voice & emerging songwriting

garnered significant airplay from country outlets with the single & video, "When She Kisses Me," resulting in tours supporting Mary Chapin Carpenter & Nanci Griffith.

After seven years at High Street, Gorka returned to Red House Records. He has since released three albums with them; most recently this summer with *Writing In The Margins* (which as you may suspect is receiving outstanding reviews). Though a long way from Godfrey Daniels, Gorka is still honored to be a part of the folk tradition -- energetic acoustic music that is not a trend, not a fad, but an expression of everyday life. We are thrilled to bring him to the Six String Concerts stage on Friday, October 27.



Jess Klein...

Sprung from the Boston folk music scene circa 1995, Jess Klein began writing and performing in college & soon found herself opening for the likes of Ani DiFranco, Martin Sexton, & Richard Shindell. By 1999, she had two self-released albums & a national tour for the emerging artist collaboration, *Voices on the Verge*, under her belt. She was selling out gigs at well-known Boston venues as well. Audiences were poised for her first major release, *Draw Them Near*, which delivered for her loyal fan base. Then Jess all but disappeared.

Turning to the songs she listened to as a child, she began to write from

a new perspective. Her 2nd recording, *Strawberry Lover* was the result of that time away.

Klein reveals an unexpected nostalgia for bygone eras, from the jukebox 50's to pre- 9/11 New York. That feeling of escape & rapture, whether expressed through Motown, rock or sultry reggae, courses through her work. It is a testament to hard-won innocence, a defiant mission statement of open-heartedness, & an exhilarating mix

of soul & rock that brings us back to what we love about music.

"As part of following a sort of innocent path, it seems important to listen to the voices that spoke to me as a child, first, the ones that moved me before I knew too much about the world. When I was still innocent enough to dance around the living room. It feels rebellious, it feels right. There's so much pressure in the world to be hardened & cynical & mean, & I just want to rebel against that."



Jess Klein - photo courtesy of jessklein.com



SONiA & disappear fear

November 17 - CPAC

When SONiA & her sister CiNDY set out from Baltimore in 1987 as the original disappear fear, the act quickly became a cult favorite, garnering considerable radio



SONiA - photo by Todd Franson

play & a sizable draw of avid fans at live performances on the college, club & festival circuit. After three releases on their own label, disappear fear signed with Rounder/Philo in 1994 to release their award

winning CD featuring Janis Ian & the Indigo Girls. CiNDY opted to forego life on the road for motherhood in 1996. SONiA continued touring as a solo artist, releasing Seed in the Sahara & Almost Chocolate (both on Rounder/Philo) followed by Me, Too (on disappear records) & her first live solo album Live at the Down Home (on Winthrop Records).

Several international tours added a more acoustic blues & world- inspired flavor to SONiA's music. Looking to further enhance her singular sound with a contemporary feel, SONiA turned to Nashville to record No Bomb is Smart in 2004. Sister CiNDY joined her in the studio to contribute vocals on ten of the 12 tracks. The album was nominated for a Grammy in the

Contemporary Folk category and for an Out Music Award for Best Female Artist.

Although the group disappear fear has undergone numerous transformations since its inception, SONiA continues to amass fans worldwide. The current band is no exception. Beginning with a highly celebrated October 2005 CD release event for DF05 LiVE, the band began a rigorous touring schedule throughout the United States & Canada, culminating with a

performance in Israel at World Pride in August 2006.

“SONiA’s expressive singing exhibits flirtatious nuance & thoughtfulness as well as the resounding echo of traditional meaningful folk singing.”

- R. Dietz, Sing Out! Magazine

SONiA continues to show that she is a globally relevant performer with sincere & heartfelt hometown ties. Says Roger Dietz of Sing Out! Magazine, “SONiA cares & wants us to care about the issues that bruise & abuse. There is an exuberance and passion about her which warms an audience with good nature and humanity. For SONiA's devotees a live

performance becomes a chance to bask in the life force which energizes her songs.”

We certainly found ourselves energized & enlivened by her performance with us. When SONiA opened for Ellis Paul we knew we had to welcome her back to the stage for a show of her own. Join us for an evening of remarkable music. 



Six String Concerts • P.O. Box 9330 • Columbus, OH 43209-0330
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Listen here.

Patty Larkin

December 1 - Martin Janis Center

Patty Larkin quotes from the Dalai Lama: "Take into account that great love & great achievements involve great risk."

Originally hailed for her acoustic guitar wizardry & blazing wit, Larkin has never hesitated to expand her musical horizons. Larkin's landmark *Perishable Fruit* (1997) & *Regrooving the Dream* (2000, Vanguard) rewrote the sonic & lyric rulebook for acoustic based songcraft. Percussive use of the lap steel ("slapsteel"), loops, samples - all found a comfortable place within Larkin's songs; & with them, Larkin started riding the wave she now inhabits.

"I look at each new album as an art opening - where the visual artist must create a show that is cohesive & dynamic, one that reflects the time in which the work was made. I am inspired by change - it defines me, & it can be subtle or radical. It captures my imagination."

With her recording, *Red=Luck*, Larkin immersed herself in a borderless musical world - where Middle-Eastern flavored melodies collide with R&B, where joyous pop and somber reflection, playful eroticism & naked soul searching entwine.

She furthered her musical horizons, with *La Guitara*, a ground-breaking compilation CD of women guitarists which explores the contribution of women to the evolution of modern guitar. Brainchild of Larkin & Bette Warner, this highly anticipated CD features 14 female guitarists of varied genres from around the globe. The results are exhilarating & inspiring "This is a dream come true," says Larkin. "To be able to hold a collection of women guitarists in my hands, many of whom I've admired for years, is a real thrill for me. We want audiences to know of the contributions that women have made to the instrument, & continue to make in increasing numbers. I find it extremely inspiring both personally and musically."

Born in Iowa, Larkin grew up in Milwaukee, in a family where music created generational bonds. "My grandmothers both played piano. I remember being small and standing underneath the keyboard while someone was playing barrelhouse blues and I felt like I had just seen God; it was a great sound to me." After playing music on her own in her teens, first piano, then guitar, Larkin attended the University of



Patty Larkin - photo by Jana Leon

Oregon where she earned a degree in English Literature. From there, she headed east to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Larkin thus honed both an incisive writing approach and a broad musical palette - beginning her musical journey. We are delighted to welcome Patty back to our stage. If you've seen her before you know you're in for a wonderful evening; if not, then come, & expand your musical horizons - you're sure to enjoy the journey. 🎸

An advertisement for Central Ohio's NPR Station 90.5 WCBE. The ad features a circular logo with "90.5" in large numbers and "WCBE" below it. Below the logo, it says "Listen here." To the right, there is a close-up image of a vintage-style radio dial with the station's call letters "90.5" visible. At the bottom of the ad, it says "www.wcbe.org". The text "WE'RE NOT YOUR GRANDPARENTS' RADIO STATION!" is written in a bold, slanted font across the middle. Below this, it lists "eclectic music • news • entertainment".

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:

Diane Crider, Daniel & Arlin Anne Kazez, Bob & Liz Gitter, Christine Moranda, Margaret Fenton, Peter Pavarini, Carolyn Sue Van Skoy, George Shea, Steve Koch, Anthony Brown, Bruce & Peggy Scott, Carol Brigham, Barbara Needham, Jennifer Young, Elliot Slotnick, Beryl & Laurie Oser, Bob & Lucinda Kirk, David Buzzee, Charles & Samru Bilge-Johnson, Chris & Courtney Bosca, Ed Sterling, Elizabeth Crane, Sue Ward, Tom & Jean Rice, Pat Gordon, Jean Parmir, Denny Weese, Dan Weiss, Alan Harris, Tamara Evans, David Faulkner, Jacque Morgan, Nancy & Larry Case, Jim & Betsy Mattimoe, Budd Ferrante, Nancy Van Dyke.



Diana Jones

January 19 - CPAC

**"The last time I remember
being this excited by a
collection of songs by a
new artist was the first time
I heard the opening lines
of Iris Dement's 1992
release, *Infamous Angel*."**

-MW - Sing Out!

Jones honed her songwriting & performing skills in the fertile Austin music scene where she released her first recording, "Imagine Me". The critical acclaim & grass roots following that sprung up around this release caught the interest of Hamstien Publishing & Jones signed a deal to record her second record, "The One That Got Away."

Jones returned to the northeast seeking time to heal from the loss of her beloved grandfather, Robert Lee Maranville, who as a young man performed with Chet Atkins, among others. The isolation led Jones to write from a deeper place, & after some serious wood shedding, she emerged with some of the most honest songs of her life.

My Remembrance of You, released March 2006, is the first record on the NewSong Recordings label. Gar Ragland, the director of the Mountain Stage NewSong Festival, invited Jones to be the first artist on the new label after seeing her perform. "Without question, Diana Jones is one of the most talented Americana artists I have heard in years. Her music cuts straight to the soul with the economy of small batch bourbon," Ragland said.

We welcomed Diana to our stage last March & loved what we heard! We are thrilled to have her perform again & invite you to discover her talent. 🎵

Troubadour is published twice yearly by Six Sting Concerts, Inc., a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting 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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And the Survey Says!...

Thanks to everyone who participated in our newsletter & online survey. We appreciate your time & value your honest feedback. We are listening & are always open to your comments. Here are some highlights:

How did you find out about us?

Interestingly 63% of you said that you heard of Six String Concerts by word of mouth. That just goes to show you how important you, our Six String patrons are to the promotion of Six String Concerts & its artists. We can't do it without you! And here's what some of you had to say on that subject ... "I would also encourage [audience members] to bring along "virgin friends" so they can be converted." "Words cannot describe what a wonderful evening we had! Work to make sure everyone is aware of your venue!!" "I had a blast! It was my first [show] - my partner had introduced me to Six String just a short time ago. I can promise to be a repeat customer!" "We love the Six String Concerts & have introduced numerous friends to them."

What have been your favorite Six String Concerts?

While there was variety in your answers, there were definitely some standouts. Here they are, in no particular order ... Eddie from Ohio, Christine Kane, Sara Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion, Ruthie Foster, Lucy Kaplansky (Psst -she's in the 2nd half of our season this year!), Jeff Black, Cheryl Wheeler, John Gorka (Hey - he's in town in October - better buy those tickets & tell a friend!), Tracy Grammer, Richard Shindell, Ellis Paul, Burns Sisters, Patty Larkin (What luck? She's in town this season too and just before the holidays. Tickets to this show would make a great early holiday present!).

What was the first album you ever bought?

Meet the Beatles, Beatles White Album, Herman's Hermits, Chantilly Lace - Big Bopper, Peter, Paul & Mary, Bob Dylan, Eagles - Hotel California, MC Hammer - You Can't Touch This, The Fugs, David Bowie - Space Oddity, John Denver's Greatest Hits, Country Roads, Seals & Croft, The Jackson Five - ABC, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, The Weavers, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Buddy Rich, Queen, Chicago, The Doors Greatest Hits, Styx - Paradise Theater, Smothers Brothers, Shawn Cassidy, James Taylor, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis, The Buddy Holly Story, Three Dog Night, Elton John, Sawyer Brown, Shania Twain, Lara Nyro...just to name a few!

To Order Tickets Online for a Six String Concert

1. Visit our site at: www.sixstring.org
2. Click on the Season link on the left side of the screen.
3. Find the show that you'd like to see.
4. Click the Buy Ticket button under the artist's name.
Result: A new window appears with some basic e-tix information already filled in.
5. Select the number of tickets you want to buy. Then click Continue.
6. Review your order then click Continue. Note: There is a \$1.00 service charge for each ticket ordered online.
7. Enter the required ordering information.
8. Click the Purchase button to complete your order.
9. Print your tickets; then bring them with you to the show.



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The First Half of Our 19th Season...

Christine Lavin / Dan Frechette opening
Friday, September 15
 CPAC - 8 p.m.
 Tickets - \$20 in advance; \$23 at the door

John Gorka / Jess Klein opening
Friday, October 27
 Martin Janis Center - 8 p.m.
 Tickets - \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door

Patty Larkin
Friday, December 1
 Martin Janis Center - 8 p.m.
 Tickets - \$20 in advance; \$23 at the door

SONiA with disappear fear
Friday, November 17
 CPAC - 8 p.m.
 Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Diana Jones
Friday, January 19
 CPAC - 8 p.m.
 Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Ask about half-season discounts. Tickets available online at www.sixstring.org; or by mail - send check to Six String Concerts; PO Box 9330; Columbus, OH 43209-0330. Reservations can be made online (www.sixstring.org or reservations@sixstring.org) or by phone (614.470.FOLK).