

TROUBADOUR

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts • Vol. 9, Issue 2, Jan. 2004

Kaplansky keeping busy with brand new daughter and new album

Lucy Kaplansky hasn't been around much the last few months. Although her touring schedule is usually full, she has been staying close to home since November, when she and her husband and frequent writing partner, Rick, traveled to China to adopt their new daughter, Molly.

friends Eliza Gilkyson, Jonatha Brooke, Richard Shindell and John Gorka.

Ever since her first album, *The Tide*, was released ten years ago, Kaplansky has charmed fans, critics and fellow musicians across the United States and Europe.

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Lucy Kaplansky
& R.B. Morris

Fri., Feb. 13, 8 pm
First Unitarian
Universalist
Church

"Molly is one year old, and she's incredibly happy, sweet, easygoing, a GREAT sleeper (everyone tells us that we don't know how lucky we are. I told Richard Shindell about Molly's sleep habits and he said 'Nobody sleeps like that!'), very silly and funny and goofy, alert and observant, and just BEAUTIFUL. We are truly blessed to have found her," Kaplansky wrote in a recent e-mail to her fans.

The road beckons, though, and she starts a new tour this month to promote her latest CD, *The Red Thread*, due to be released February 10. The album features six original songs (including the stunningly beautiful "Land of the Living," her song about the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City) and four covers of tunes by James McMurtry, Bill Morrissey, Dave Carter and Buddy Miller/Jim Lauderdale. Lending a hand with harmonies are Kaplansky's



Lucy Kaplansky



Six String
Concerts

celebrating our
16th season!

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in Six String ticket
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Brown stops by to
entertain in March

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Trooper return to end
the season on a high note

The scoop on tickets

Change is a constant, and so we take this opportunity to announce new developments in how to get tickets to Six String Concerts events. Beginning January 15, tickets will no longer be available at Borders Books and Music. However, our other ticket outlets remain the same, and we are happy to announce the addition of a new outlet to serve our music fans on the east side.

Central Federal Bank, 4249 Easton Way, began selling Six String tickets in mid-January. The bank is in a beautiful new building across from the Hilton Hotel at Easton. In operation since 1892, Central Federal has opened this new office in Columbus to focus on personal service to both the private and business sectors. Customers will be able to make transactions in private offices, and business customers can make use of the merchant teller window and night deposit. The local office is under the direction of Six String Concerts founder Parker MacDonell, making it easily the most acoustic music-

friendly bank for miles!

For those of you on the west and north sides, Twin Rivers Music in the Kenny Center will further its long tradition of supporting Six String Concerts by continuing to serve as a ticket outlet. Located just south of Kenny and Henderson, it is a convenient location for those who were buying tickets at Borders. While you are in Twin Rivers, check out the many beautiful instruments for sale, stock up on strings, or sign up for those guitar lessons you've been meaning to take since 1984. Owner Greg Hankins is an interesting guy, so be sure to strike up a conversation.

As always, tickets will continue to be available through Ticketmaster outlets and charge-by-phone, as well as directly from Six String Concerts via e-mail, mail, phone or at the door. For complete information on those processes, visit the Six String Concerts web site at www.sixstring.org.

See TICKETS, page 6



Twin Rivers Music Company

Steel string guitars by Huss & Dalton, Collings, Lakewood, James Goodall, C. F. Martin

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Buzz Chewning	Stewart Johnson	Ward Scott
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Leigh Mamlin	Chris Lougeay	Greg Hankins
John Sherman	Adam Dudding	

**In the Kenny Center on Kenny Road
(614) 459-6606 GuitarsUSA@aol.com**

Brown: the stuff of legends

For Greg Brown, there has always been music. His mother played electric guitar, his grandfather played banjo, and his father was a Holy Roller preacher in the Hacklebarney section of Iowa, where the Gospel and music are a way of life. At age 18, he got his first professional singing gig, running hootenannies at New York City's legendary Gerdes Folk City. He worked in LA and Vegas, and traveled

performed weekly on "A Prairie Home Companion," and has been a regular ever since. Fans of the program such as Willie Nelson and Carlos Santana began calling, asking if they could record "They All Went To Mexico," a song Brown wrote about being abandoned by his girlfriend, his buddy and his dog.

When he returned to recording, it was on Red House Records, a label he cofounded and continues to record for today, nearly 20 years and almost as many albums later.



Greg Brown

with a band for a few years. At one point, he quit performing altogether and took a series of blue-collar jobs, including truck driving and working in a meat packing plant, where he cut off the tip of his thumb, before returning to Iowa to play in Midwestern clubs and coffeehouses.

Although he released two albums in the early '80s, he didn't pursue a solo career again immediately. From 1983-86 he

performed weekly on "A Prairie Home Companion," and has been a regular ever since. Fans of the program such as Willie Nelson and Carlos Santana began calling, asking if they could record "They All Went To Mexico," a song Brown wrote about being abandoned by his girlfriend, his buddy and his dog.

When he returned to recording, it was on Red House Records, a label he cofounded and continues to record for today, nearly 20 years and almost as many albums later.

During those two decades, Brown has become known as one of the best and most original songwriters and performers in the business. He has been nominated for Grammy awards twice, and his songs have been covered by more than 50 performers, including Shawn Colvin; Garrison Keillor; Garnet Rogers; Cry Cry Cry (Lucy Kaplansky, Richard Shindell and Dar Williams); and the Nashville Bluegrass Band. Joan Baez added to the list by covering two Brown songs on her latest CD.

Two years ago, a group of female performers including Iris Dement (whom Brown married last November); his daughters Pieta, Zoe and Constie; Ani DiFranco; Ferron; Lucy Kaplansky; Gillian Welch and others, recorded a tribute album of Greg Brown songs called *Going Driftless* to benefit The Breast cancer Fund of San Francisco.

"One of the best singer songwriters
"in America."

The Washington Post

"A wickedly sharp observer of the
"human condition."

Rolling Stone

Greg Brown

**Fri., Mar. 26, 8 pm,
Fawcett Center at
The Ohio State
University**

See BROWN, page 6

Kane finds her voice and niche

Many things have changed for Christine Kane since her first road trip. Ten years ago, she and a friend hit the snow-covered North Carolina roads in a “1980-something” car, headed for coffeehouses in Boone and Blowing Rock. Her friend insisted they take a “shorter” route down a road that had not been snowplowed.

“For 19 miles,” Kane wrote in her tour journal, “we drove about five miles per hour

on snow-and-ice-covered, unlit, winding roads with jagged cliffs on the right side of the car. Did I mention that the only functioning headlight was the bright light on the right side of the car? The trees were leaning heavily over the road, weighed down by all the ice on their branches, and the ice was breaking off of them, falling like Coke bottles onto the car.”

When they arrived at the Beanpole Coffeehouse, Kane played three sets for \$24 in tips. Afterward, she spent the night in a cold hotel room that smelled like “cigarette butts, mildew and bad dreams,”—and cost \$7.80 more than she’d earned.

She recorded her first CD *This Time Last Year* (1995) in a friend’s basement. It received not only rave reviews, but also high sales, and she was off and running. *A Thousand Girls* was released two years later, and was chosen by Apple® Computers as the CD that demonstrated its QuickTime® software at its national exposition and on its web site.

Campus Activities Today magazine named Kane as one of the top three college performers in 1998, and she was a winner of the legendary Merlefest Songwriting competition in 2000. That same year, she released her third CD, *Live*, followed two years later by the fan favorite and criti-

cally-acclaimed *Rain & Mud & Wild & Green*.

As she continues to hone her skills, Kane is becoming more confident as a performer and a songwriter. “Someone who’s into Eminem, or pop music as it stands now, is probably not gonna find that my voice rings true to them,” she said. “But the people I appeal to and the audience that comes to hear acoustic music and singer-songwriters and that kind of thing are gonna get what I do.”

“These songs are so fresh and real. Christine’s voice and her eye on the world are a real inspiration and joy to me.”

Rosanne Cash



Christine Kane

These days, she tours as many as 200 nights a year, regularly appearing with Nanci Griffith, Shawn Colvin, Greg Brown and Los Lobos. Kane also serves as resident songwriting instructor for the renowned Swannanoa Gatherings, and regularly performs at concerts to benefit humanitarian and social justice issues, including “Girls On The Move,” an Outward Bound program for at-risk teens, and the Landmine Free World concert. ♪

Christine Kane

**Fri., April 30, 8 pm,
Columbus
Music Hall**

Kelley, Trooper shining stars of song

It is a great story: a teenaged Irene Kelley sees Dolly Parton on TV and is blown away. She brings a Parton song to a practice session of the band she sings in. Unfortunately, it's a rock & roll band, doing Led Zeppelin covers. Kelley is fired on the spot.

Soon after, Kelley got her own guitar—and her own band—and started performing and writing songs. She said that she would sit with her guitar and songs would just come out. “It all happened quite by accident,” she said. “I would get a great idea and it would keep evolving and I'd write it down. I really started enjoying the process.” Kelley ended up in Nashville, where her songwriting gift was quickly recognized. Her songs have been recorded by Alan Jackson, Loretta Lynn, Trisha Yearwood, Brother Phelps, Claire Lynch, Rhonda Vincent, the Osborne Brothers, The Whites, Ricky Skaggs and Carl Jackson.



Irene Kelley

Kelley's first CD, *A Simple Path*, was released a few years back to great fan and critical acclaim. According to *Performing Songwriter* magazine, “*Simple Path* is a

warm and wonderful collection of bluegrass-tinged country music that's hard to find on the radio these days. It has the timeless sound of a standard; something Dolly Parton or Loretta Lynn would be proud to call their own.” She is currently at work on her newest release, *Thunderbird*.

Growing up on the Jersey shore, Greg Trooper's music tastes were different from those of his peers. He was “knocked out” by the likes of Willie Nelson, Townes Van Zandt, Johnny Cash, John Prine and Van Morrison, to name a few.

He spent time performing in Austin and New York, where he released his first two CDs, before finding his way to Nashville, where he lives today. He has recorded five more albums, and his tunes have been performed by the likes of Vince Gill, Steve Earle and Billy Bragg.

His 2003 release, *Floating*, has been heralded loud and long. *All Music Guide* said “Each album is stronger than the last — which is saying something when you've never released a bad one.” As for Trooper, he is interested in his growth as a songwriter, focusing and paring down to the creative essence. “I hope this album shows that I've learned how to say more by not trying to say so much,” he said. “I've tried to learn to get my point across by leaning a line or two in a certain way, rather than trying to make a big statement.”

“(Irene Kelley) sings with immense hillbilly heart and writes like a champion.”
Music Row magazine



Greg Trooper

“This album should be required listening at Songwriter U. It could just as well have been called 'This is how it's done.'”
Harp magazine

Irene Kelley & Greg Trooper

**Fri., May 21, 8 pm
Columbus
Music Hall**

Deeply committed to social issues himself, one of Brown's pet projects has been In Harmony, a non-profit visionary organization developing an intergenerational community comprised of children in foster care or labeled "unadoptable" and senior citizens. In 1999, he performed two benefit concerts for organization, which were distilled into the benefit CD *Solid Heart*, now in its second printing.

"This is a beautiful idea," Brown said, "to provide housing and kindness and possibilities to these children who come out of very tough situations, and at the same time build housing for elders who will provide some of the care for the children. It is a good thing for everyone—it is love in action."

At the end of January, the indie label Trailer Records plans to release the recording that Greg Brown's fans have been waiting for: a CD of traditional folk tunes filtered through his distinct musical perspective. *Honey In The Lion's Head* features guest appearances by long-time producer Bo Ramsey, Iris Dement, daughter and Trailer Records artist Pieta Brown, and many of the Iowa City bluegrass players who have appeared on Brown's releases over the years. The CD features such classic songs as "Samson and Delilah," "On Top Of Old Smokey," and "Jacob's Ladder."

And what else is in store for this multi-talented artist? "I guess the only other thing I would like to do professionally is write the music for a movie that I like. I have never written music for a film so that is what I would like to do." 🍸

The web site contains a lot of other material, including details on upcoming concerts, directions to the venues, links to artists' web sites, photos from past events, and other fun stuff.

Don't forget our half season ticket program! This is a great way to make sure you have tickets for shows that might sell out, and each ticket price is discounted. Half season tickets also make perfect gifts for any music lover. And if you know a music fan who is a still a young whippersnapper, remember that Six String participates in the High 5 program, which allows junior high and high school students under age 18 the opportunity to attend arts events at reduced prices.

If you have any questions about ticketing procedures, please call us at 470-FOLK or e-mail us at info@sixstring.org. 🍸

Six String Ticket Locations

Ticketmaster Outlets
or charge-by-phone (614) 431-3600
(service charge applies)

•
Twin Rivers Music
1125 Kenny Center
just south of Kenny & Henderson
Hours: 12-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun.
(cash and checks only, please)

•
Central Federal Bank
4249 Easton Way
across from the Hilton Hotel
Hours: 8-5 Mon.-Fri.
(cash and checks only, please)

•
Six String Concerts
by e-mail, mail, phone or at the door
Visit our web site www.sixstring.org for info

It's cold. Your coffee doesn't have to be.

We told you last fall that you wanted one, but not all of you listened. Fear not! It is not too late to get your hands on the new Six String Concerts travel mug.

To become the proud owner of one of these sleek (and functional) beauties, simply come to a Six String concert and

pick 'em up for only \$10.00 each. And don't forget friends and family—they might like one, too. *Helpful hint: when filled with chocolates, these mugs just scream "Happy Valentine's Day!"* 🍸



with her pure and emotive vocals, intelligent lyrics, and charming stage presence.

“(Kaplansky) brings a winning charm, healthy folk soprano and sound interpretive instincts to the task... easy to predict stardom for her.”

New York Times

That Ride, was released on Prine’s Oh Boy label in 1997, and was considered one of the top 10 CDs of the year by many

Americana and folk critics. *Rolling Stone* called it “the kind of debut that makes you long for a follow-up.”

The Red Thread is the fourth solo CD for Kaplansky, who gave up a thriving psychology practice to pursue music. She was a member of the folk supergroup *Cry Cry Cry* with Richard Shindell and Dar Williams, and is much sought after as a harmony vocalist, having performed on recordings by Nanci Griffith, Shawn Colvin, Bryan Ferry, John Gorka and others.

And follow it up he did. In 1999, he released *Zeke and the Wheel*, which was nominated as Americana CD of the year by the American Federation of Independent merchandisers. It has been heralded as a breakthrough work for its combination of rock, poetry and mythology.



R.B. Morris

Though R.B. Morris is known primarily as a first-rate musician and songwriter, his talent goes well beyond that. He has published a book of verse, *The Man Upstairs*, and a play, *The Man Who Lives Here Is Loony*, based on the life and works of James Agee. He also acted in the title role in a video of the play.

Morris has spent most of his life in Knoxville, which, he said, “is East Tennessee and considerably different than Nashville and the rest of the state, both in physical terrain and musical history.” He has played everything from old time mountain music to rock in clubs and honky tonks throughout the mountains and beyond, including Mexico, Canada and Europe.

He took his music to Nashville several years ago, and found support from such luminaries as Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle and John Prine. His first CD, *Take*

“RB Morris is the greatest unknown songwriter in the country.” *Lucinda Williams*

“RB Morris is the reason I started writing poetry.” *Steve Earle*

Morris has spent the last few months touring with John Prine. 🎸

Troubadour 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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Our 16th Season

Lucy Kaplansky & R.B. Morris
Fri., Feb. 13
First Unitarian Universalist Church
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Greg Brown
Fri., March 26
Fawcett Center at The Ohio State University
\$20 advance, \$22 door

Christine Kane
Fri., April 30
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Irene Kelley & Greg Trooper
Fri., May 21
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

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