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★★★ A LETTER FROM KIM ★★★

The Times They Are A-Changin'

Welcome to 2009! We know these are uncertain times and that we're all making careful choices about how we spend our "extra" cash. We hope you will continue to find Six String Concerts a worthwhile place to spend your evenings and your dollars.

Six String Concerts remains artistically and financially strong thanks to your ongoing patronage and charitable support. We want to retain this strength so that we may continue to provide Central Ohio with the finest performing songwriter concert experiences.

You can help make this happen by continuing to buy tickets and bringing your friends.

We also invite you to consider a donation to Six String Concerts. To save paper and postage, we've decided to make our annual donation requests via email and this newsletter. This expense reduction means that your donation will go even further to secure our future. We really need your support!

One more note. We knew this crazy economy would impact us in several ways; less disposable income, increased artists' fees, decreased donations from arts organizations.

What we couldn't foresee was that the City of Columbus would propose to close the Columbus Performing Arts Center, our home for the past few years.

We've been assured that the CPAC will be available for our remaining concerts this season. But please stay tuned. If there is a venue change for any of our performances, we will communicate it in our emails and on our website.

Now for the fun part... We have four more not-to-be-missed shows remaining this season. Read on to learn about these amazing artists.

See you at the show!



KIM WILSON
President,
Six String Concerts



THINGS TO REMEMBER...

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

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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

JOE CROOKSTON & EMILY KURN

Saturday, February 7

Joe Crookston received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to travel New York State, interview local residents, and gather stories. Those stories became songs for Crookston's latest CD *Able Baker Charlie and Dog*, which went straight to #1 on the US Acoustic/Folk DJ Charts.

As a 2007 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival "Most Wanted" Emerging Artist, Crookston earned a spot on the 2008 Falcon Ridge Preview Tour.

With hypnotic guitar, bubbly banjo and short-story lyrics, Crookston's music draws from rural Ohio roots and his urban adventures, exuding a universal and timeless quality.

Versatile songwriting, rave reviews, excellent musicianship and a charismatic stage presence have quickly made Joe Crookston one of folk music's "must sees".

Emily Kurn is quirky, intelligent and rootsy.

With a bachelor's degree in Theater Arts and 20 years of performance experience ranging from classical ballet and voice to piano and musical theater, Emily Kurn is undeniably at home onstage.

Since relocating from San Francisco to Anchorage, Alaska, five years ago, Kurn has piled up a long list of honors, including 2nd place in the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Contest and Honorable Mention in the prestigious International Songwriting Competition Americana Category.

When she's not wowing audiences from Alaska to New York, she's kicking someone's butt in Scrabble. So watch out.



“Crookston’s music surrounds you like a warm bedtime tale.”

– *Singer Magazine*

“Emily Kurn... one of the exciting voices of folk music.”

– *Miles of Music*

LAURA LOVE WITH LINDSAY MAC

Friday, March 13

The media and even her own record label have struggled to define this inimitable musician's colorful style, which embraces bits of the blues, bluegrass, jazz, folk, gospel, reggae, and country. Laura Love has sometimes called her music "Folk-Funk," "Afro-Celtic," or "Hip-Alachian."

Regardless of how she is described, Love has an uncanny knack for enthralling audiences from all walks of life, from octogenarians who line up to hear straight-ahead bluegrass to the pierced-and-tattooed circle to middle-aged parents.

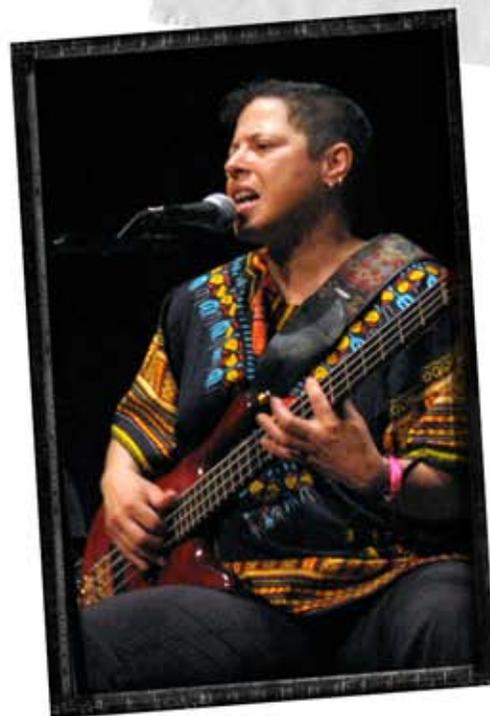
Love survived a difficult childhood in Nebraska, bouncing with her sister among orphanages, foster homes, convents and homeless shelters, while her mother faced her own struggle with mental illness. Love learned the truth about her musician father only at the age of 16. Through her strong will and the power of love, she came out on top personally and professionally. You can read her story in her memoir, *You Ain't Got No Easter Clothes*.

Love's latest release, *NeGrass*, collects original and traditional Negro spirituals and bluegrass music to commemorate the lives of her great-grandparents as they emerged from slavery at the end of the Civil War. *NeGrass* was named Best CD of 2007, Alt Country category, by the Indie Acoustic Project.

An energetic performer with a powerful voice and funky bass guitar, she whirls at the confluence of her love of diversity in music, her sense of history, and her passion for environmental issues and making the world a better place. She treasures her private time spent with family and is active in environmental issues, notably the restoration of Longfellow Creek in West Seattle.

Love's indescribable musical genre, infused with delicious elements of far-flung cultural trademarks, stands out from the crowd. Her survival instincts, broad musical tastes, and innate talent combine to make her a performer to be reckoned with.

See Page 7 for opener Lindsay Mac



“...startlingly original. Her music is spare, yet striking. Her voice is ripe, supple, strong, and impossible to ignore.”

– Billboard Magazine



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.

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SIX STRING CONCERTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

★ CHERYL WHEELER & JOHN GORKA ★

Saturday, April 18

CHERYL WHEELER

Saturday, April 18

Cheryl Wheeler is known for her sharp comic wit and her emotionally intense songs.

Her first performance was to a captive audience. She found an old toy ukulele in a neighbor's attic and serenaded her mother who was taking a bath at the time.

She first performed professionally at a local restaurant, but soon graduated to clubs in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas. In 1976, she moved to Rhode Island, where she became the protégé and bass player for country-folk singer-songwriter Jonathan Edwards.

Wheeler's song "Addicted," was covered by Dan Seals and became a No. 1 country hit in 1988. Other songs have been covered by Bette Midler, Kathy Mattea, Garth Brooks and Peter, Paul and Mary, but nobody does a Wheeler song better than Wheeler herself.

She tours extensively, and her live concerts include hilarious comic routines as well as lively, serious dialogs. She talks candidly about current events, and then sings a song that makes you howl with laughter.

It has always seemed as if there were two Cheryl Wheelers, with fans of the New England songwriter relishing watching the two tussle for control of the mic. There is poet-Cheryl, writer of some of the prettiest, most alluring and intelligent ballads on the modern folk scene. And there is her evil twin, comic-Cheryl, a militant trend defier and savagely funny social critic.

Scott Alarik, author of Deep Community says, "More confidently and beautifully than ever before, she proves that the poet and the comic are one and the same."

“Rare artist...strong poetry, complex melodies, clever wit.”

– SingOut!



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SIX STRING CONCERTS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

★ **CHERYL WHEELER & JOHN GORKA** ★

Saturday, April 18

JOHN GORKA

Saturday, April 18

New Jersey native John Gorka, famed for his rich, expressive baritone is one of the leading lights of the new folk movement.

Gorka has traveled a long road since the late 1970s, when he worked behind the scenes in at Godfrey Daniels, a coffeehouse and performance venue for aspiring folk musicians in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He performed in school coffeehouse programs & formed the Razy Dazy Spasm Band, a non-traditional bluegrass, country, blues & folk band. Richard Shindell would later join the group.

A Moravian College student of philosophy and history, Gorka gravitated increasingly more to this hangout until he was living in its basement and performing the duties of soundman and emcee for the likes of Tom Paxton. Gorka couldn't have planned his career better, as this sideline gave him the chance to open for legendary singer/songwriters and test some of his own originals.

New York City was a tempting hop away, and Gorka honed his songwriting chops at weekly songwriting workshops in the Greenwich Village flat of Jack Hardy, founder of Fast Folk magazine and mentor to stars Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega, Tracy Chapman, Julie Gold and Cliff Eberhardt.

His deeply emotional lyrics and self-deprecating humor endeared him to audiences and won a loyal following that spread among his peers, who have covered his songs and collaborated on tour and in the recording studio. Some 30 years since his start at Godfrey Daniels, John maintains an ambitious tour schedule and reaches out to grateful fans at concerts and festivals.

“*The pre-eminent male singer-songwriter of the New Folk movement.*”

— Rolling Stone



JAMES KEELAGHAN WITH BEN BEDFORD

Saturday, May 16

James Keelaghan's songs, sung in rich, lilting baritone, move us in ways we love to be moved.

His stories, told directly and simply, reach us in ways we love to be reached. He has one of the most glorious male voices on the folk scene today, and his guitar playing drives the song straight to the heart.

Keelaghan studied history at the University of Calgary. But his passion for the moving personal stories behind the history has inspired some of his most celebrated songs.

His song "Cold Missouri Waters", about the Mann Gulch fire of 1949, was covered by the band Cry Cry Cry. His songs have also been covered by folk luminaries such as Roy Bailey and Garnet Rogers.

On his latest CD, *A Few Simple Verses*, he comes at history the way a folk singer would: paying tribute to songs he loves, many of which his father used to sing, many of which have no definite origin, and all of which are part of living history.

Keelaghan's lyrics are influenced not only by the history he studied in college and the history he has lived, but also by the poet Yeats. "The influences never stop," he says. "My father was a great influence as a story teller, my mother for a sense of humour. I listened to a lot of Irish traditional stuff when I grew up, tempered with Jethro Tull, Neil Young, Bruce Cockburn, Joni Mitchell, Captain Beefheart." Add a drop of deep fire to a mixture like that and you have James Keelaghan.

See Page 7 for opener Ben Bedford



“Keelaghan's voice is so easy to listen to that the thorns in his lyrics, and the twists he replicates in his covers, can catch the listener unawares.”

– Pamela Murray Winters, Dirty Linen



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Don't forget to check with your employer about matching contributions.

LINDSAY MAC

Opening for Laura Love, March 13

Lindsay Mac is a performer you'll not forget. The obvious is that she is the girl who straps her cello to her body and plays it like a guitar. "A classical education gone horribly wrong," is usually the gist of the local headline. What you'll remember about this musician is her songwriting and haunting voice. Thankfully the bulk of her instrument hasn't affected her tour schedule (though buying an extra seat on the plane has its disadvantages).

“One of the best in emerging folk.”

— Boston Globe



BEN BEDFORD

Opening for James Keelaghan, May 16

A storyteller from the age of 3, Ben Bedford dictated stories to his parents before he could hold a pen. He picked up the guitar at 14 after watching a friend play on a camping trip. When he discovered his mom's Gordon Lightfoot collection, Bedford began a foray into folk and Americana. With a degree in history, it's only natural that his songs are shaped by a fascination with human truths and the plight of man through the ages.

“Captivating songs, one after another.”

— Rootstime Radio, Belgium



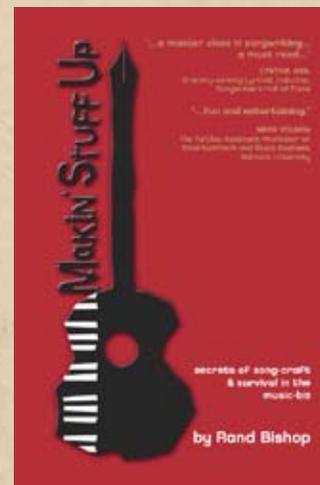
BOOK REVIEW: MAKIN' STUFF UP

BY RAND BISHOP

If you have ever aspired to write a song that changed the world, or if you are the slightest bit curious about what it might take to accomplish that feat, *Makin' Stuff Up* by Rand Bishop is a great place to start your journey. (In the spirit of full disclosure, Rand and I are co-founders of a Nashville music publishing company.) This book reads just like a conversation with Rand. He intersperses practical advice about Nashville and song construction with vignettes from his life that are just as instructive as the songwriting lessons.

Rand, who is co-author of the number-one Toby Keith hit *My List*, takes us through the writing, re-writing and demo recording of two songs, one section at a time. (If you read only one chapter, choose 'The Bridge' because Rand writes the tidiest two-line bridges this recovering songwriter-turned-reviewer has ever studied.) Every other chapter contains a story from his 40-year career as a recording artist, record producer and songwriter for some of the biggest names in the industry. This format propels the reader forward like a good road trip and will teach you plenty along the way.

Rand is selling *Makin' Stuff Up* only through his website and Amazon.com, using its publication to launch a new on-line songwriting service by the same name. At www.makinstuffup.net, readers who hate to see the book end will have the opportunity to interact with Rand and his fellow Nashville song crafters, and songwriters who sign up as members will be able to get feedback each month on some of their own songs. I encourage you to visit the website – maybe you'll write the next song that changes the world!



Reviewed by Parker MacDonell,
Founder of Six String Concerts



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2008/09 SEASON - SECOND HALF

★ Performance Schedule ★

} **Joe Crookston & Emily Kurn**

Saturday, February 7
 \$15 Advance, \$18 Day of Show

} **Laura Love with Lindsay Mac**

Friday, March 13
 \$20 Advance, \$23 Day of Show

} **20th ANNIVERSARY SHOW**

} **Cheryl Wheeler & John Gorka**

Saturday, April 18
 \$30 Advance, \$33 Day of Show

} **James Keelaghan with Ben Bedford**

Saturday, May 16
 \$20 Advance, \$23 Day of Show



All shows are 8 p.m. at the
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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?