



TROUBADOUR

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts • Vol. 8, Issue 1, Sept. 2002

Six String Concerts starts its 15th season with Cliff Eberhardt

Cliff Eberhardt was all of seven years old when he knew what he wanted to be when he grew up: a singer and a songwriter. Raised in a musical family outside Philadelphia, he taught himself to play guitar and, at 15, performed with his brother Geoff on the eastern club circuit.

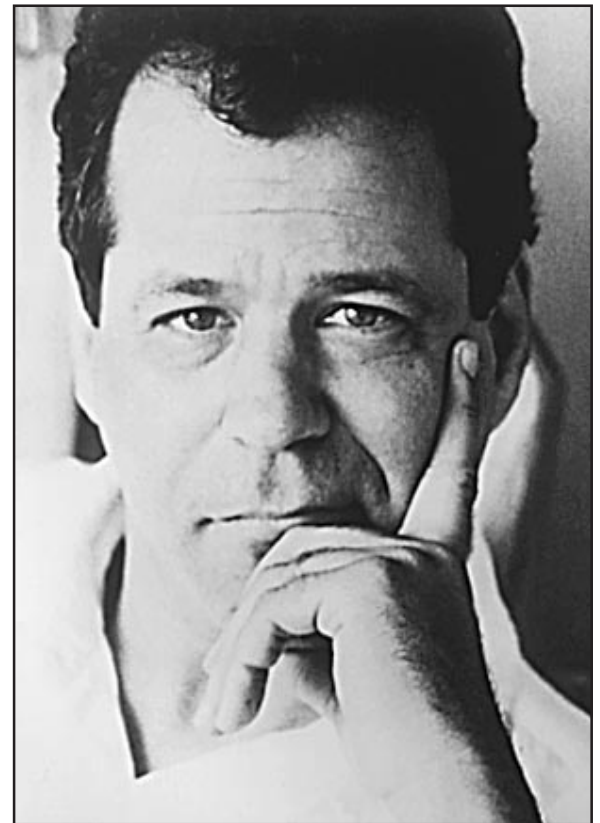
After brief stints in Illinois and Colorado, he moved to New York City just as the acoustic music community was flourishing in Greenwich Village. He played the clubs and hung out with his new friends, who had names such as Gorka, Vega, Kaplansky, Colvin and Lavin. He also played guitar on tour with Richie Havens and sang advertising jingles for products like Coke, Miller Beer and Chevrolet.

His big break came in 1990, when his song, "My Father's Shoes," appeared on Windham Hill's *Legacy* collection. That year, Windham Hill also released his first solo CD, *The Long Road*, which *People* magazine called "as welcome as iced tea in August." A highlight of the album is the title cut, a duet with his friend Havens. *Now You Are My Home* (1993) and *Mona Lisa Cafe* (1995) followed to much the same critical acclaim.

After a chance meeting with Red House Records president Bob Feldman at John Gorka's wedding, Eberhardt moved to Red House, which released *12 Songs of Good and Evil* (1997), his first album to look at a

single topic from many different angles. One of the songs on that album, "Memphis," was covered by the folk supergroup Cry, Cry, Cry. This nod to his songwriting ability is becoming more and more frequent, as other performers realize his great talent for setting a story to music. Richie Havens, Shawn Colvin and Buffy Sainte Marie are just a few of the many other singers who have covered his original material. *CMJ* has also taken note of his

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Cliff Eberhardt



**Six String
Concerts**
celebrating our
15th season!

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two of the fastest
rising acoustic stars

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is up for another
high energy performance

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with a Purpose
(Darryl Purpose, that is)

Half-season tickets, credit cards & more

Getting the most music for your money

Have you seen our great lineup for the first half of our season? Think about purchasing a half-season ticket and save enough for beverages and snacks at intermission! You'll be able to attend the first five shows of the fifteenth season and save \$10—that's \$2 off the price of each ticket.

To purchase a half-season ticket, send a check or Visa/MasterCard info (name, card number & expiration date) for \$68 each with a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Six String Concerts, P.O. Box 9330, Columbus, Ohio 43209. If you email us at info@sixstring.org or call us at 614-470-FOLK and make half-season ticket reservations, you can pay for the tickets at the door on the night of the first concert with cash, check, Visa or MasterCard

Give the gift of Six String

Individual Six String Concerts tickets and/or half-season tickets make great gifts. Just email or call us, and we will send you a Six

String Concerts gift certificate for your friends, colleagues, family members, etc. You may select a specific concert, or you may leave it up to the recipients which concerts they wish to attend.

Make a music lover happy!

We now take credit cards

Well, we've finally made the leap and are now set up to take your Visa or MasterCard. If you purchase your tickets at the door or have made reservations via phone or email, you will be able to pay for your tickets with a credit card. (At this time, however, we are unable to take credit card purchases over the internet—we're working on it!) You will also be able to purchase artists' CDs, tapes, and t-shirts with your plastic. In addition, you can buy Six String t-shirts, half-season tickets and gift certificates with your credit card. Finally, for those of you wishing to make another donation to Six

See GETTING THE MOST, page 7

TwinRivers Music Company

Steel string guitars by Collings, Lakewood, Santa Cruz,
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Stars quickly on the rise

Erelli and Amsel hit the ground running

This is turning out to be a very good year for Mark Erelli. In early August, he opened the Main Stage at the Newport Music Festival. On September 1, he is marrying Polly Mathewson, his partner of four years. And his latest CD is getting tons of praise from critics, peers and fans.



Mark Erelli

The Memorial Hall Recordings, Erelli's third release, is his tribute to the musical and geographical landscape of New England. "My goal for this album was simply to record life, cobwebs and all," he explained. To help achieve the sound he was looking for, Erelli and his band recorded the album over four days in the Civil War-era Memorial Hall in a small town in Massachusetts.

The accolades for this CD are nothing new for Erelli: he has turned in nothing but impressive work since his self-titled debut album in 1999. *Billboard* said his songs sound "fresh, yet oddly familiar, like something rediscovered on old 78s found

in your grandparents' cellar." That same year, he won the Kerrville New Folk Contest. His second CD, *Compass and Companion*, spent nine weeks in the top ten of the America charts and won two Boston Music Awards.

Recent Grammy winner Dave Alvin paid tribute to him by saying, "If I had a voice like Mark Erelli, I could go places."

Beth Amsel released her first recording, *A Thousand Miles*, on cassette in 1997. Word of mouth spread through internet folk music chat rooms, and it was re-released on CD to meet the demand.

What immediately sets her apart is her voice, which the *Boston Herald* called "simply one of the most beautiful on today's folk scene." Others have described her sound as "crossing Patsy Cline with Sarah McLachlan," and one that "flits easily from Joni Mitchell to duskier Dar Williams... a voice that seems destined for something big."

In addition to her solo career, Amsel is a founding member of "Voices on the Verge," a touring roadshow of Amsel, Rose Polenzani, Erin McKeown and Jess Klein. Their first CD, *Live from Philadelphia*, was nominated for a Boston Music Award.

With the recent release of *Kindling*, her second solo CD, Amsel is poised to establish herself as one of the fastest-rising—and brightest—stars of contemporary acoustic music. ♪

Mark Erelli & Beth Amsel

**Fri., Oct. 25,
8 pm, Columbus
Music Hall**



Beth Amsel

Calling all Edheads—EFO is back

If you were in the audience at Six String Concerts' Troubadour Music Festival this past spring, you know the kind of excitement Eddie From Ohio creates. This Virginia-based quartet cranked up the heat with its first song, and kept the audience enthralled right through the encore. Almost immediately, audience members began begging Six String to bring back EFO, and soon.

Eddie From Ohio's sound is impossible to classify—too high-energy to be “folk,” too much fun and too straightforward to be “alternative.” The *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

hand-clapping, barn burner of a song. The next minute, a hush falls over the crowd as the band launches into an a cappella ballad with gorgeous four-part harmonies.

Since joining forces in 1991, Julie Murphy Wells (vocals), Robbie Schaefer (guitar, vocals), Michael Clem (bass, vocals) and Eddie Hartness (percussion, vocals) have earned a reputation as one of the most popular independent acts on the folk circuit. Their seven CDs (all on their own Virginia Soul label) have sold some 100,000 copies, and each has been named in *Performing*

Songwriter's “Top 12 DIY CDs” column; they have toured coast to coast (and cultivating a mailing list of more than 20,000 names in the process); and have played the main stage at the country's most prestigious folk festivals. In both 1998 and 2000, they were named “Best Contemporary Folk Group” by the Washington Area Music Association.

With all that, their success is largely grassroots, built on word of mouth from fans and folk music DJs. US Air's *Attache*

called EFO “the greatest band you've never heard of.” The band's fan base is so loyal and highly-evolved that they call themselves Edheads, and enjoy such EFO activities as an annual Edhead Caribbean cruise, with the band members and their families onboard. 🍹



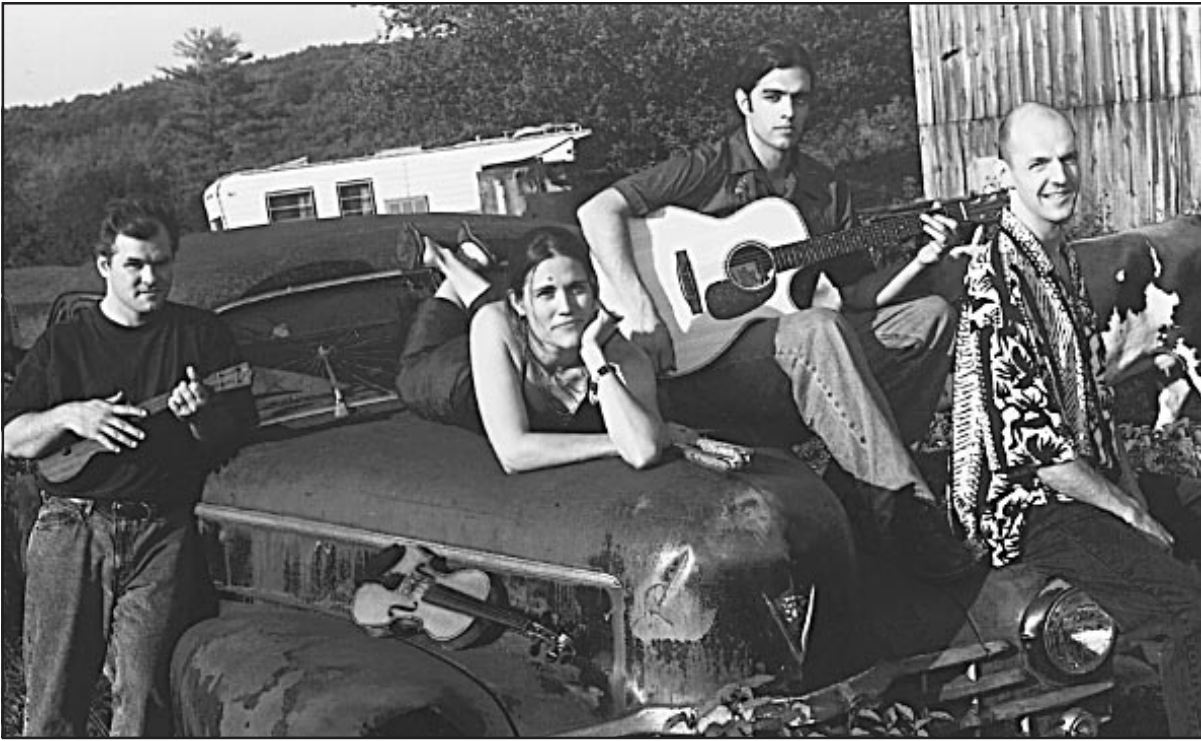
Eddie From Ohio

called it “psycho-folk,” but even that seems to fall short of the job. The band's eclectic mix of folk, bluegrass, gospel, country & western, and Celtic styles, coupled with tight harmonies, great musicianship and intelligent, quirky lyrics make every performance a wild ride for the audience. One minute, the room is alive with an up-tempo foot-stomping,

Eddie From Ohio

**Fri., Nov. 8,
8 pm
Shedd Theater**

Arbo & co. make musical mayhem



Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem

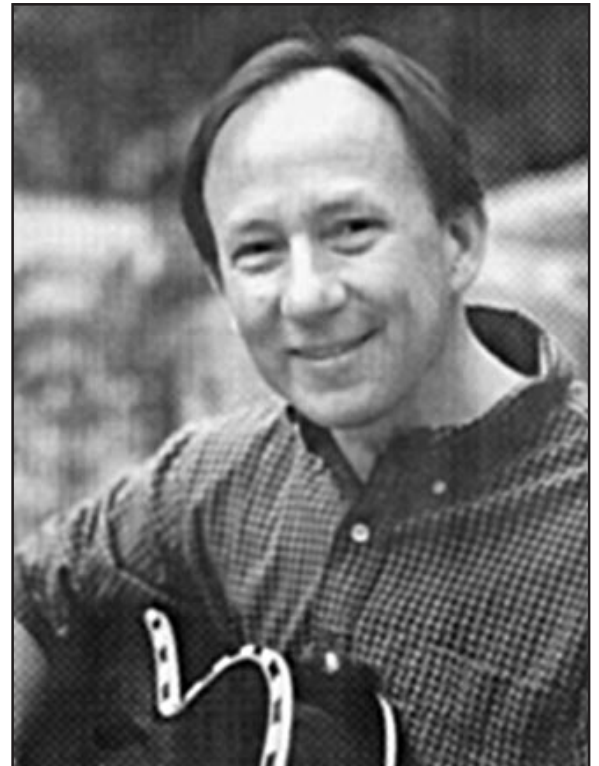
Rani Arbo first appeared on the folk scene ten years ago as a member of Salamander Crossing. With her new band, daisy mayhem, Arbo continues to provide the hot fiddling, sizzling vocals and fine songwriting that she is known for—while kicking it all up a several notches.

In daisy mayhem, Arbo is joined by fellow Salamander Crossing member Andrew Kinsey (bass, banjo, ukulele), Anand Nayak (guitar) and Scott Kessel (percussion and a 100% recycled drum kit featuring cardboard box, cat food tins and a vinyl suitcase). The name is a perfect fit according to Arbo because, “It sounded a little chaotic, and the collection of music we do is very eclectic. There’s a little mayhem in the middle of a set; you have no idea what will happen.”

The new sound draws heavily on swing and jazz—the group’s first CD is aptly titled *Cocktail Swing*—without leaving folk, bluegrass, and gospel behind. daisy mayhem is as likely to tear into a Ralph Stanley tune as it is to croon a Billie Holiday ballad, a George Jones classic, or an old jazz standard.

John Lilly has devoted a good part of his life to early country music. He’s danced with the Green Grass Cloggers, worked as a tour guide at the Country Music Hall of Fame, played with Ralph Blizzard’s New Southern Ramblers, and edited *Goldenseal*, a magazine devoted to the history and folk culture of West Virginia.

About his solo career, 3rd Coast Music raved, “If you can imagine what Jimmie Dale Gilmore might sound like if he’d been born and raised in Appalachia, you’ll have an approximation of Lilly’s soulful mountain sound and emotional impact.” 🎸



John Lilly

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem with John Lilly

Fri., Nov. 22, 8 pm, Columbus Music Hall

Larkin, Purpose have plenty to sing about

One certainly cannot accuse Patty Larkin of standing still. In the last 15 years, she has evolved from sensitive singer-songwriter, to alterna/pop artist, to sonic innovator and lyric master.

Her 9th CD, *Regrooving the Dream*, is a showcase of her fearless blending of the seemingly most disparate of music styles:



Patty Larkin

rock, folk, funk, Celtic, Brazilian rhythms, r&b, jazz. "I'm a musical omnivore. When asked what sort of music I like best, I always say 'good music,'" she said. "There is so much going on that I find fascinating. I want to explore it all."

Larkin plays at seven instruments (maybe more), but it's her guitar work that stands out. Quite simply, it

is amazing. Awe-inspiring. Phenomenal. Has-to-be-seen-to-be-believed incredible. Combined with her intelligent lyrics and entertaining between-song stories, her performances never fail to astound and entertain.

Patty Larkin & Darryl Purpose

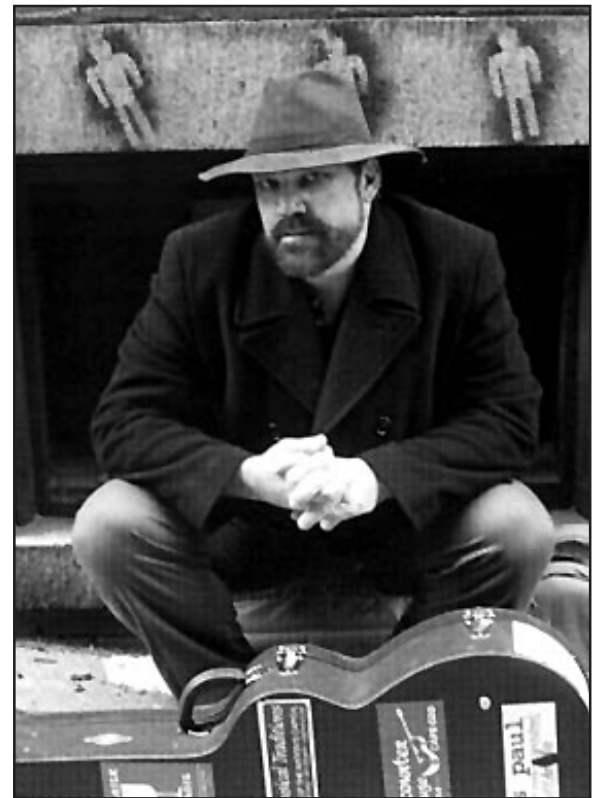
**Fri., Dec. 6,
8 pm
Shedd Theater**

Performing Songwriter said, "Imagine a drop-dead brilliant guitar player, a richly textural singer, a commanding poetic songwriter, a hilarious and personable entertainer. There you have Patty Larkin."

While still in his mid-20s, Darryl Purpose was considered the best blackjack player in the world. After two decades as a professional gambler, and a brush with the law that could have earned him a long

prison stretch (he was arrested the day his first CD was to be released), he gave it up for a music career. "Casino gambling is, at best, about nothing...this exchange of money. Whereas music feels like it's about something real," he explained.

His songwriting, whether solo or in collaboration with friends such as Ellis Paul, has grown out of his natural storytelling ability, not to mention the wide array of characters he has encountered along his life's path. Savvy gamblers, redeemable vagabonds and wistful souls searching for love and truth people the unforgettable songs on his four CDs. "It's been a tough life, but it's given me something to write about."



Darryl Purpose

A committed social activist, Purpose founded the "Second Strings Project," which donates used guitar strings to musicians in underprivileged areas such as Sri Lanka, Eastern Europe, Central America, Thailand and Russia. More than 4,000 sets of strings were donated in the project's first year. 🎸

skill: "His songs are full of powerful images, and Eberhardt's music is moving as well, whether shaped into gut wrenching love songs or joyous romps." His songs have been collected in the *Cliff Eberhardt Songbook*.

Eberhardt returned to the studio in 1999 to record *Borders*, his second Red House release, and a musical examination of the limits, frontiers and lines that divide us all, both physically and emotionally. His latest Red House effort is a look at the fleeting nature of romance called *School For Love*. It was released in mid-August of this year, so he will have plenty of new material to share when he opens Six String Concerts' 15th season on September 20.

In addition to his heavy solo touring schedule, he has spent the past several years touring part-time with "Winter's Night." This round-robin event features Eberhardt and his buddies John Gorka, Cheryl Wheeler and Lucy Kaplansky.

He is also a sought-after instructor, and has taught songwriting, publishing and production around the country, including the Alaska Song School, Dennison University, Williams College and the Rocky Mountain and Kerrville Song Schools.

There will be an opening act for the Cliff Eberhardt concert, but details were still pending at press time. Please visit the Six String web site at www.sixstring.org for the latest information. 🎻

String Concerts during our annual fund drive this fall, you can charge your gift. We hope that this will make your Six String transactions easier for you!! Of course, we will certainly still accept cash or check for each of these transactions.

If you have additional questions about half season tickets, gift certificates or credit cards, please leave a message on the Six String Concert Information Line (General Information Box) or email us and we will be sure to contact you!

Big web site improvements

If it's been a while since you last visited www.sixstring.org, we think you will be pleasantly surprised with the new look. We've worked over the summer to expand the site, making it more user-friendly, nutritious and fun—good *and* good for you!

In addition to our concert events, you will find links to our sponsors and other music web sites, an on-line version of the newsletter you are now reading, enhanced details on ordering tickets and finding the venues, and a year-by-year history of Six String. This is just the tip of the iceberg—many more improvements are planned.

None of these improvements would have been possible without the help of InDepth Technologies, longtime Six String patrons who love the music as much as we do. They are a rather unassuming bunch of folks, but we have to give credit where credit is due—they have been terrific. Check out the new and improved www.sixstring.org today! 🎻

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 15th Season

Cliff Eberhardt
Fri., September 20
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

**Mark Erelli
& Beth Amsel**
Fri., October 25
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

**Tom Prasado-Rao
& Tom Kimmell**
Fri., Feb. 28
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Eddie From Ohio
Fri., November 8
Shedd Theater
\$15 advance, \$17 door

**Richard Shindell
& Christine Kane**
Fri., March 14
Shedd Theater
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem
John Lilly
Fri., November 22
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

Nerissa & Katryna Nields
Fri., April 4
Columbus Music Hall
\$15 advance, \$17 door

**Patty Larkin
& Darryl Purpose**
Fri., December 6
Shedd Theater
\$18 advance, \$20 door

Cheryl Wheeler
Fri., May 9
Shedd Theater
\$15 advance, \$17 door

More dates to be added!

Ask about half-season discounts

Tickets available at Ticketmaster,

Borders Books & Music (Kenny Rd.), Twin Rivers Music
or from Six String Concerts at 470-FOLK

Online reservations at

info@sixstring.org or www.sixstring.org

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