



# Troubadour

Acoustic music news from Six String Concerts  
Vol. 12 Issue 2 January 2007

## Mary Gauthier

February 9 - CPAC

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Mary Gauthier's path has wound through devastation and despair. She has beaten back demons, lived off the streets, turned 18 behind bars, and to completely confuse things won notice as a respected restaurateur - all before writing her first song.

Years passed before Mary found her muse. "I was incapable of writing when I was getting high and drinking," she says. "Ironically, though, I was capable of going to school and running a business; I just couldn't put words together than meant anything to me."



Mary Gauthier

Five years at LSU as a philosophy major prepared for when she would begin writing. "The most important thing I got from philosophy was that there are no answers," she says. "There are only good

questions. There's freedom in knowing that you don't have to know it all, which is why to me, a song should end with a question, not an answer."

When drugs became too hard to handle, Mary dropped out, leaving LA for MA. Somehow she moved ahead in the midst


of her addictions. She attended the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, after which she opened a successful Cajun restaurant, Dixie Kitchen. "For me, the best part of the gig was the creative part. But the maintenance was drudgery."

Once more Mary ran away. She tried again to get off the bottle and the drugs, and this time it worked. "There's no way to get sober painlessly," she affirms. "Everything you've been running from your whole life comes slamming [into you.]"

Then a little miracle happened: Mary found herself, for the first time, writing songs. "It was like, bam, two neurons touched, fused, connected, and the next thing you know I'm obsessed with getting words down in a song to make sense of all this, to try and understand my own life." And so she wrote her first song, when she was finally clean and sober. She was 35 years old.

No one was more surprised than Mary when her first CD, Dixie Kitchen (1997), earned her a Boston Music Award nomination for "best new contemporary folk artist."

Eventually she sold her share in Dixie Kitchen to finance her second album, Drag Queens in Limousines (1999).  
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**Six String  
Concerts**  
celebrating our  
19th season

With that, she smiles, "all hell broke loose": Rolling Stone gave it a four-star rave, and she reaped an Independent Music Award. On Mercy Now Mary reaches even higher by dredging deeper through the backwaters of her life. As on her previous efforts, there is plenty of darkness on Mercy Now. There are different shadows, more mournful than threatening. And there is light, in the careful instrumentations.

"What is the difference between a truth teller and a great songwriter?" she muses. "I think it comes from writing about the struggle. Instead of running from the pain, a truth teller runs head on into it. Somewhere along the way I figured out that the most intimate part of me is the most universal part of me. I've figured out that the artist's job is to reveal that universal human experience. There's got to be a way to go inside and pull out the bigger truth and use it as a mirror in which other people can see themselves." 🎸

## 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 see pictures from previous shows, check us out at [www.sixstring.org](http://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.

Visit our website [www.sixstring.org](http://www.sixstring.org), for pictures from past shows and links to upcoming artists' websites.

**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 last 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 Flynns and Lucy Kaplanskys 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.

## Letter from the President

Wow! Can you believe we are nearing our 20th year celebration? It seems like only yesterday when a group of friends came together with an idea that if Columbus didn't already have the kind of music we were looking for, that we could bring it here ourselves.

And now here we stand on the verge of a very exciting anniversary. As we close the 19th season, the line-up is an outstanding example of what we set out to accomplish - to feature a mix of both veteran and emerging talent; and all notable talent within the folk music scene. Some of the nation's finest performing songwriters have been featured on the Six String stage over the years. Next year will be no exception, and a special year to which we are looking forward.

### Spread the word about Six String Concerts!

Please keep spreading the word about Six String Concerts and the amazing talent that can be heard on our

stage. Even after all these years, I still meet folk music lovers who have never heard of or attended a Six String Concert. They don't know what they've been missing! Bring your friends, neighbors, or co-workers with you to a show this season. Your guest, the artists, & the entire Six String Concert community will thank you for it

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

- *Kim*

# The Roches

March 2 - CPAC

The Roches are Maggie, Terre & Suzy (rhymes with "fuzzy"); three sisters who live in New York City. Together they have created fifteen recordings in various configurations. Whether as a trio, duo or solo, each recording is as distinct as a snowflake. Known for their swirling harmonies and extraordinary lyrical perspective as well as their smart and fun live performances, they have created a unique musical expression perhaps best described as "Roche Music." Their self titled album, "The Roches" was hailed as the Best Record of The Year by the New York Times. Their children's recording "Will You Be My Friend" was awarded The Parent's Gold Choice Award.

The Roches performed for twenty years as a trio throughout Europe and the United States in a wide variety of venues from their own sold out show at Carnegie Hall to the concert halls of Europe and the street corners of New York City. They appeared on The Tonight Show, The David Letterman Show, Prairie Home Companion and have sung with Philip Glass, Paul Simon, Laurie Anderson, The Indigo Girls, Loudon Wainwright and Linda Ronstadt, just to name a few.

Maggie has a contralto voice that provides an unusual bass element for all-female harmonies. Terre provides a soprano that brackets the upper range of the sisters. Suzy fills in the middle range to complete the trio. While touring as a trio, all three sisters accompany themselves on guitar and keyboard, frequently without additional musicians.

The Roches - photo by Irene Young



In the nineties they expanded to pursue solo projects. As a duo, Maggie and Suzy created "Zero Church." Their widely acclaimed collection of prayers, which began at Harvard University, is a musical celebration of faith and diversity, and was featured on NPR's All Things Considered.

**"Contemporary court jesters, The Roches make you think, but not at the expense of a hearty belly laugh."**

-San Francisco Chronicle

Maggie and Suzy released "Why The Long Face" in keeping with their long tradition of original thought and close ethereal harmony. As the

Washington Post wisely noted, "The sisters still have a lot to say."

Can We Go Home Now (1995), was the last original recording they released as a trio. In 1997, the three sisters formally put The Roches group on a long-term hold. In late 2005 the three reunited with brother David for a very successful holiday tour. In 2006 the sisters at last returned to the studio to begin recording together again.

After an 11-year hiatus, the Roches celebrate with us the release of their latest album, Moonswept, available March 20th. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome them to Columbus on the verge of this long awaited and highly anticipated release.



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**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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# Lucy Kaplansky

with Jeffrey Foucault  
March 23 - CPAC

Lucy Kaplansky left Chicago for New York City when she was barely out of high school, settling into a community of singer-songwriters such as Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, and Bill Morrissey.

But then she took the road less traveled

for artists: she gave up music for school, earning a doctorate in Psychology. She soon was pulled back into music by her friends, but the result of her studies can be felt in her insightful lyrics.

Initially known as everyone's favorite singing partner, the result of her gift of harmonization, Kaplansky performed as a duo with Shawn Colvin, provided harmony vocals for countless artists (including much of John Gorka's catalog) and founded the folk "super group" Cry Cry Cry with Dar Williams and Richard Shindell.

## Jeffrey Foucault

Six String Concerts has hosted Husband-and-Wife combinations before, but we can't remember a time when they've performed at different shows! Jeffrey Foucault is married to Kris Delmhorst, the headliner from our show last April.

Foucault's musical career was seeded at seventeen, when he began playing John Prine tunes on his father's beat up mail-order guitar, & spent long evenings in his bedroom, spinning piles of old records on a hand-me-down turntable. When he was 18 he stole a copy of Townes Van Zandt: Live and Obscure from a friend, & a few

"Kaplansky's voice seems to get warmer and richer with each album, and the lyrics she writes with her husband, Rick Litvin, do the same."

Associated Press

"New York songwriter Lucy Kaplansky is becoming the troubadour laureate of modern city folk."

- The Boston Globe



Lucy Kaplansky

Among her series of strong solo releases are Ten Year Night and Every Single Day, both of which won the AFIM award for best pop album of the year. Her 2004 release The Red Thread investigates subjects from post-9/11 New York to her adoption of a young girl from China.

Shortly after 9/11, she stopped the show at Columbus' Southern Theater with her performance of the still in-progress "Land of the Living". Reading her words and music from a wrinkled piece of notebook paper, she evoked tears and thunderous applause from the audience and her fellow performers including Cheryl Wheeler and John Gorka.

Kaplansky will release a new album in the spring, so this show promises to feature the her best known work as well an introduction to new material.



years later, having quit school to work as a farm-hand & a house-carpenter Foucault turned to writing songs.

A Wisconsin native & recent transplant to western Massachusetts, he has built an independent career touring extensively in the United States, Canada, & the UK.

In addition to his promising solo recordings, Foucault has teamed with Demhorst & friend Peter Mulvey (also a past SSC headliner) to tour & record an album as a trio called Redbird, turning a loose affiliation of artist-friends into a formal project. The wide-ranging record includes

original work as well as covers of favorite artists from Bob Dylan to Mark Sandman of Morphine.

His latest work, Ghost Repeater, has Foucault firmly on an upward trajectory. Receiving accolades from The New York Times & the Chicago Sun-Times, which proclaimed it "one of the best albums of the year." It is a country and blues album at the crossroads of love and lament, exploring the hopefulness of new love & the seasickness of contemporary American living.



# Corinne West

April 23- CPAC

From the open meadows of California's Sierra mountains, Corinne West spins tales with a part velvet and part grit voice that is both achingly penetrating and highly addictive. Her music has a cool, layered, yet driven sound and has been referred to as "utterly spell-binding", "radiant", and "extraordinarily beautiful" by reviewers world-wide.

**"Take the Waybacks and Nina Gerber, a hard-driving country beat, and the powerful country-sounding voice of Corinne and you have an exciting album that holds your interest through 13 tracks."**

-SingOut! Magazine

**"Bound For The Living" is a wonderful blend of songwriting, ace picking, and well-focused production. Corinne has a gift of tailoring her vocal style to the nature of the song.**

- Dallas Dobro – KPIG Radio

Her writing runs a golden thread through the likes of country, bluegrass, western, Americana and folk, resulting in a style that is hers alone. With the talents of Nina Gerber and some friends from The Waybacks, Corinne has concocted the perfect Americana recipe, which recently resulted in her acclaimed debut album "Bound For the Living".

Corinne is currently working on her follow up record for "Bound For The Living", which is being produced with Mike Marshall. When not in the studio, she is captivating audiences far and wide with a full touring schedule and a solid dedication to the road.



Corinne West

She performs with her band The Posse, which is a rotating cast of talented instrumentalists.

West is forging her own contribution to

Americana music, which fuses the distinct voice of an original singer-songwriter with the driving steam of an American Roots train. Combining a swingin' pace with melodic ballads, Corinne delivers a soulful body of music that strikes the listener at the core.

Her performance style and a talent for songwriting has brought her much critical acclaim, including being recognized as a finalist in the 2005 New Folk competition at the Kerville Folk Festival.



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1. Visit our site at: [www.sixstring.org](http://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.



John Flynn

## John Flynn

May 11 - CPAC

**".. it's apparent early on that (Flynn's) music echoes not only his influences, but also his humanity."**


-Goldmine

John Flynn began writing songs professionally after graduating from Temple University with a degree in political science in 1980. He intended to study law, but a brief sojourn to Nashville's Music Row led to a change of plans in the form of a publishing contract with Combine Music, and a Billboard Magazine Top Forty country recording of his song Rainbows and Butterflies by Epic recording artist Billy Swan. Flynn's writing, however, proved too introspective and poetic for country music and, one early hit notwithstanding, he eventually concluded that the only category he wanted his songs to fit neatly into was the one called "from the heart." Despite, or perhaps because of this, John's songs have been recorded by a wide range of artists, from Chris LeDoux to Full Frontal Folk.

During the early 90's, Flynn returned to his native Philadelphia where his first self-released CDs began to receive extensive airplay. A standing ovation followed his first main stage appearance at the 1995 Philadelphia Folk Festival, cementing John's regional reputation. During

these years, songs Flynn wrote for his four children became the basis of two highly acclaimed family CDs, garnering Flynn repeat appearances on the Peabody Award-winning children's radio program "Kid's Corner," the American Library Association's Notable Recording Award, and an ever increasing number of requests to visit schools to perform hugely popular assemblies and conduct creative writing workshops. In 1997, his self titled release on fledgling Sliced Bread Records was produced by Grammy winner Ben Wisch and yielded John critical acclaim and a national top-fifteen slot on the Americana charts. A live album followed which showcased not only Flynn's songwriting but his emerging gifts as a performer and entertainer.

In the new millennium, John Flynn, has begun to speak and write on political and social justice issues. His last CD, Dragon (MettaFour Records) reunited Flynn with producer Ben Wisch and features backing vocals by Kris Kristofferson. Dragon was among the twenty most played albums in folk music in 2004, making many year-end top-ten lists. It continues to receive extensive international airplay

In recent years John has toured extensively playing folk festivals, theaters, clubs, church basements and coffeehouses. Presented simply, with nothing more than an old Martin D-28 and harmonica, John's compelling songs, strong voice and open-hearted approach to his audiences, are making strangers, believers; and believers, friends throughout the country. John Flynn continues his journey with his new CD, Two Wolves. 

## 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:

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## Season...

Mary Gauthier

Friday, February 9

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Corinne West

Friday, April 13

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

John Flynn

Friday, May 11

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door

Lucy Kaplansky with Jeffrey

Foucalt

Friday, March 23

CPAC - 8 p.m.

Tickets - \$17 in advance; \$20 at the door

Ask about half-season discounts. Tickets available online at [www.sixstring.org](http://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](http://www.sixstring.org) or [reservations@sixstring.org](mailto:reservations@sixstring.org)) or by phone (614.470.FOLK).