

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

FOLK NOTES

Visit us at <http://members.aol.com/souffolk>
for music links and upcoming events **May, 2003**

ACOUSTIC UNDERGROUND CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

John Blosser Saturday May 3rd, 8:00pm

Possibly no other instrument conjures up more images of traditional American music than the dulcimer. John Blosser's involvement with the lap dulcimer goes back to his university days in West Virginia when he studied under well-known collector of Appalachian ballads, Patrick Gaynor. Other early influences include dulcimer pioneers Jean Ritchie, David Schnauffer, Robert Force, Don Pedi, Leo Kretzner and Steve Seiphert. In 2000 and 2001 John was the winner of the Florida Dulcimer Championship held each April in Dade City, Florida.

Today, as a West Palm Beach resident with a real day job, John spends most of his free time taking his beloved dulcimer to festivals across the nation. While he enjoys and performs the traditional music associated with the instrument, (his traditional music idols include Hedy West, Phyllis Gaskins and the Fuzzy Mountain String Band), his heartfelt mission is to take the lap dulcimer into new and un-charted musical domains. He feels an affinity to the folk and rock music of the early sixties so much of that era is included in his work. But he doesn't stop there. He wants "to take the dulcimer wherever it wants to go." And go it has. Flamenco, blues, rock, reggae, classical. He recorded Panis Angelicas for the CD "Masters Of The Mountain Dulcimer".

John has also been active in the researching and preservation of some historically important dulcimers including the commissioning of two reproductions of the personal instrument of the late Richard Farina, from its Australian luthier who lives in Kangaroo Valley. This was based on sketches and photos of the original, now in the Smithsonian, provided by Mimi Farina, Richard's widow. He will do some numbers on one of those instruments.

We are in for a most informative, insightful and entertaining evening from one of the masters of folk music who dwells among us.

Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th Street, N. Miami, FL
tel: 305-892-8522.

Requested Contribution: \$7.00 (\$6.00 Members)

FOLK FRIDAY PRESENTS

Friday May 16th, 8:00pm, entrance free

Valerie C. Wisecracker and the Walking Catfish

With a name like that, don't you sort of get the idea that this won't be chamber music. Most of us already know and love Val, the First Lady of Florida folk music. With a persona somewhere between Annie Oakley and Auntie Mame, on and off of the stage, just the mention of her name brings a smile. The



word irreverent was probably coined for her. No despoiler of our land, wrecker of our legal or political systems or shirker of our morals is free from her pen or tongue. Add to this her considerable talent on guitar and banjo and you can begin to explain her popularity at festivals, concerts, cattle chip tosses and funky gatherings all over the state. Having lived many years in the Florida Keys she has documented many of Florida's corkscrew developmental twists and turns with her unique humor.

One our most dedicated, accomplished and knowledgeable performers, Val is a mainstay and driving force behind the growth that folk music is enjoying in South Florida. She has shared the stage with some of the nations best such as John Hartford, John McCutcheon, Christine Lavin, Michael Johnson, Michael Smith, Cozy Sheridan and many more. Her sidekicks are Mitch Mestel on bass and Wes Malkin on mandolin, horn and guitar. Don't miss this original and delightful Florida treasure.

Folk Friday is the third Friday of March. Sponsored by the City of North Miami, Florida. Free Admission at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th Street, North Miami, FL 305-893-6211. Produced by the Folk Club Of South Florida.

Please stop by the **Luna Star Café**, 775 NE 125th St.
after the concert for a snack and more fine music.

THE PREZ SEZ: Spread The Word; Become a Folk Ambassador

By **Barry J. White**

The existence of an active and vibrant folk music community, or sub-culture, if you will, might just be one the best kept secrets in South Florida. The fact that every county down here has a folk club that actively organizes and promotes the genre, and that there are several fine folk venues and many house



concerts would be a surprise to most people as would the existence of Michael Stock's program on WLRN. Is this a problem? It is in several instances. If you are involved in one of the folk clubs, your mission statement (see our website) requires you to be proactive. Or if you are a house concert or festival producer, or owner of a venue. Or if you consider yourself a "folkie" and have come to enjoy the rich and varied talent we see and many friendships among fine and diverse people and think they should be shared. It is a concern if you see traditional and contemporary folk music conveying the history, values and traditions of a people. For those new to our shores or to those among us who have never been exposed to folk music, it presents an opportunity for them to understand and appreciate the messages each story carries.

For all these and many more reasons, each of us can do his part by telling friends, co-workers and organizational contacts about the folk music that is available. Tell them about Michael Stock and of the many festivals and concerts. Make a date with them to attend a house concert or to go to one of the venues or to a song swap. Ask us for extra newsletters and put them in your office or give them out. What you are offering goes beyond just an increase in appreciation of folk music. It is giving them a chance to enrich their life, to broaden their circle of friends and to know more about our culture. You are hereby appointed a "Folk Ambassador".

OPEN HOUSE & SONG SWAP

For more information on this month's open house please contact the host, Rae Newoman at 305-595-5483. The open house is on the second Sunday of the month from 5 pm to 9 pm. Covered dishes are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAIN STREET CAFÉ CONCERT SERIES

128 N. Krome Avenue, Homestead. Directions: From the Florida Turnpike, exit Campbell Drive, (exit #2) also known as SW 312 Street. Turn Left onto N. Krome Avenue. FLSR 997. Please call Laurie Oudin at 305-245-7575 to make your reservations. Web site: <http://www.mainstreetcafe.net>. Shows start at 8:00 pm, cover charge \$10.00. Main Street Café's '**Up-Close and Personal**' Concert Series for January follows:

Chris Proctor, Thursday, May 1st

Chris Proctor is known nationwide as one of the modern masters of fingerstyle guitar, and is at the forefront of the modern steel-string guitar movement. Chris' warm stage presence and sense of humor, combined with his intelligent and finely-crafted original compositions and arrangements and his pioneering use of the electric bow have made him a favorite with guitar fans everywhere.



Michael Smith, Thursday, May 8th

Amy Carol Webb and Ellen & Gary Bukstel, Saturday, May 10th

Greg Greenway and **Pat Humphries**, Thursday, May 15th

David LaFleur and **Patchouli**, Thursday, May 22nd

Maggie, Pierce and **E.J.**, Saturday, May 24th

Alan Gerber with **Mark Humphries** opening, Thursday, May 29th

CONCERTS AT THE LUNA STAR CAFÉ

Luna Star Café is now presenting regular acoustic concerts in North Miami. 777 N.W. 125 Court, North Miami, FL.

John Blosser Saturday May 3rd, 8:00pm, see the front page

Call Alexis at 305-892-8522 for the April program of concerts, or see the concert schedule at:

<http://www.geocities.com/purdyville/lunastar.htm>

BUKSTEL HOUSE CONCERTS

At Sacred Ground - Temple Beth Or Sanctuary

Greg Greenway Saturday, May 17, 8:00 pm

Known as a one man tour-de-force, Greg Greenway is one of those difficult-to-categorize performers who have found a home in the modern acoustic genre. He is one of the finest



entertainers you'll ever see. Musically, he draws inspiration from all over the map: gospel, rock, blues, even world music. But its central appeal is that it comes through the singular lens of Greenway's humanity and his soulful affinity for the audience. He has been described as "one of the strongest, and finest voices in folk music." The Boston Globe wrote, "Confessional one moment, rambunctiously disarming the next, few modern folk singers can own a coffeehouse stage as completely as Greenway." Another reviewer perhaps described him best, "A profoundly rich poet and musician. Folk Music is too narrow a description." And he has legendary energy. One Cambridge promoter is fond of introducing Greg with "fasten your seatbelts, this next performer is going to take you for a ride." It is "a ride" well worth taking.

Greenway now has four critically acclaimed solo releases: *A Road Worth Walking Down* (nominated for two Boston Music Awards), *Singing For the Landlord* (top five CDs for 1995 on the Internet Folk DJ list), *Mussolini's Head*, and most recently, *Something Worth Doing*.

Among Greenway's performance highlights are a show at Carnegie Hall in the New York Singer/Songwriter Festival which was rebroadcast on NPR's World Cafe, an appearance on nationally syndicated Mountain Stage, and a show at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honoring Phil Ochs. In August of 2000, Greenway was seen world wide on CNN's World Beat in a segment on socially conscious artists. He was filmed at the Clearwater Hudson River Revival Festival performing along with Folk legend Pete Seeger and others. Greenway was recently featured on the weekend edition of NPR's All Things Considered.

CONTACT: Ellen, ellen@bukstel.com, 954-680-8543
Reservations are required in advance with a \$15 donation. 11715 Southwest 87 Ave, Miami, FL

BARKER HOUSE CONCERTS, N. Miami

305-644-9111 / 305-972-5685

New Last Rights Saturday, May 10, 7:30 pm

Last Rights was started by Steve Greenberg and Steve Glickstein in mid-1989. Toward the end of the year, Ruth Replogle joined the group. In the year 2000, Ruth moved to Washington State, and was replaced by Heather House. Last Rights has appeared extensively in the South Florida area, and is considered the best folk group of its type in



Florida. They have opened for such nationally-recognized folk acts as Fred Small, Steve Key, Oscar Brand, Tom Paxton and Windfall.

In 1991, they were the featured group at the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. They have also been the featured act on several occasions in the coffee-houses of the South Florida and Broward Folk Clubs, Hot Java, and the Palm Beach Folk Club, and appeared regularly at Café, Café, in Pembroke Pines. Last Rights has appeared as the main act in many other Florida venues including the Octagon Coffee House, the Iron Horse, and the Cleveland Street Coffee House, in Clearwater, and at the Lyric Theater in Stuart. Last Rights regularly performs in festivals throughout the State of Florida.

Opening: **David La Fleur** Our own troubadour and man of many instruments will give us a welcome taste of his talents.

Suggested donation for the concert is \$15 at the door, or \$12 in advance.

For **Barker House Concert** reservations call Maria Barker at **305-644-9111, 305-972-5685** or email maria@floridamusic.org. Please see our web site at: www.floridamusic.org for additional concerts.

HEART'S DESIRE HOUSE CONCERTS**MPE Band** Thursday, May 22, 7:30pm

The Philadelphia-based trio Maggi, Pierce And E.J. (MPEband) -- comprised of three multi-talented individuals -- is one versatile, unique and powerful

band. It's MPE's trademark intricate 3-part harmonies that ground and unify their inspired "Eclectic Rolk" sound. MPE's songs range from quirky, jazzy sing-a-longs to intoxicating hymn-like dirges to rock solid pop hits to invigorating country/blues flavored



psychedelic blowouts! Their Chinese-fire-drill instrumentation, sinewy vocals and seat-of-the-pants spontaneity leave fans groping for descriptions: "Abba meets Zappa", "They Might Be Giants meets Crazy Horse", "Fleetwood Mac meets The Pixies", "Sonic Youth meets the Beatles" are but a few attempts to label what is truly the magic of... Maggi, Pierce and E.J.

\$10 donation, covered dish dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. Pembroke Pines. RSVP to Susan at (954) 433-2372 or OzWoman321@aol.com.

<http://www.heartsdesireconcerts.com>

HOULE/SCHMIDT HOUSE CONCERTS

Pat Humphries Duo Friday, May 16th

Pat Humphries & Sandy Opatow sing powerful, passionate songs about the lives of real people. In May 2002, NPR's All Things Considered featured the story of an underground "folk anthem" that was 'everywhere,' despite its having no commercial airplay and no major label, or even moderate-sized Indie label support.



The song was "Swimming to the Other Side," by activist musician and award-winning songwriter, Pat Humphries. The NPR segment included interviews with Pat and folk legend, Pete Seeger, who said, "The powers that be can control the media (but) it's hard to stop a good song . . . Pat's songs will be sung well into the 22nd century." The response from NPR listeners was tremendous and unprecedented. In addition to emails that flooded Pat's and NPR's inboxes, so many people ordered "Hands" that it was the #1 seller on Amazon.com for three days--outselling Eminem's just-

released live recording, and every other rock and pop artist. There is hope! Contact: (954) 561-4929 for further details.

NEWS

Phil Ochs Night Sunday, May 18

Performers are: **Ellen Bukstel** opening with **Amy Carol Webb, Greg Grenway** and **Pat Humphries Duo, Jerry Cohen,** and **New Last Rights**

At the Unitarian Church of Ft. Lauderdale, 3970 NW 21 Ave, Ft Lauderdale, FL, at 8:00pm - for reservations call Robby Productions 954-240-6313

Florida Folk Festival May 23, 24, and 25

Each year in May, the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs rings with the sounds and sights of three full days and nights of Florida's finest music, dance, and stories at the annual Florida Folk Festival.

Folk, blues, country, bluegrass, old-time music, Latin, Caribbean and Cajun music on multiple stages with 200 concerts per day, storytelling, dancing, folktales, and crafts. For more information, visit the website:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks/folkfest/index.asp>

Open Mikes

On Sunday nights: Acoustic Showcase @ John Martin's Pub in Coral Gables.

On Tuesday Nights: OpenMic @ Sax Music Bar 1756N. Bayshore Dr. Miami.

Both events will start at 8pm. Sign-up At 7:30. "Come On Down!" For more information contact: John Brown, gringo64@bellsouth.net

Rod McDonald

Rod MacDonald solo

Sunday, May 18, The Barnacle, 3485 Main Hwy, Miami, 305-448-9445 7:00 pm (with James London)

Wednesdays 5/21, 5/28 7:30 pm at Paddy Mac's, 10971 N Military Tr, PB Gardens 561-691-4366

Tracy Sands & Rod MacDonald

Paddy Mac's: Thursdays 5/22, 5/29 7:30 pm, Fr-Sat 8:30 pm 5/23-24, 5/30 (not 5/31)

Please note: 5/30 will be Tracy Sands' last performance at Paddy Mac's before moving to Ireland.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See additional events not included in the main concert list. Send information/corrections for the Calendar of Events to Linda Singer at 305-667-4386 or email her at lcsingerpa@telocity.com.

Thursday, May 1st

Live Music at Main Street Café (See Concerts List for details)
The Pelican's Nest, 10442 SW 86th Street, Miami, 305-254-0108, on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Open mike with Lenny Batista.
Backstage, 12201 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, Phone Art. 305-688-5106.
Acoustic Jam Session with Jomo, master Mbira-player.

Friday, May 2nd

Open Mike at Main Street Café, 128 N. Krome Avneue, Homestead.
The Luna Star Café. Nicholas the Storyteller. Open Mike 10:00pm.

Saturday, May 3rd

Acoustic Underground concert, Luna Star (see first page)
Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-12.00 pm
Main Street Café - sing a long with Pathfinders, Phone 305-245-7575

Sunday, May 4th

Bluegrass Under the Trees, Ives Optmist Club- \$3:00 1511 NE 207 St. N. Miami Beach-Lenny 954-741 5997. 1:00 to 6:00pm

Monday, May 5th

Open mike at The Taurus Grill, 3540 Main Highway, Coconut Grove from 7:30 pm to 11pm with John Brown

Tuesday, May 6th

Music Industry Networking Night 7:00pm to 9:00pm, One Night Stan's, 2333 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Tel.: 954-929-1566.
Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm
The Chat Room Café, 1862 N. Young Circle, Hollywood, Fl. 954-920-9299.
Open Mike 7:00-10:00pm

Wednesday, May 7th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm

Thursday, May 8th

Live Music at Main Street Café (See Concerts List for details)
The Pelican's Nest, 10442 SW 86th Street, Miami, 305-254-0108, on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Open mike with Lenny Batista.
Backstage, 12201 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, Phone Art. 305-688-5106.
Acoustic Jam Session with Jomo, master Mbira-player.

Friday, May 9th

Broward Folk Club open mike, Slattery's Irish Pub, 1015 NE 26th St., Winton Manors. 7:30 pm, concert at 9:00pm. Tel. 954-563-7833.
Open Mike at Main Street Café, 128 N. Krome Avneue, Homestead.
The Luna Star Café. Nicholas the Storyteller. Open Mike 10:00pm.

Saturday, May 10th

Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125 Street, North Miami, Open Mike with Tony Thomas, 305-892-8522.
Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-12.00 pm
Main Street Café - sing a long with Pathfinders, Phone 305-245-7575

Monday, May 12th

Open mike at The Taurus Grill, 3540 Main Highway, Coconut Grove from 7:30 pm to 11pm with John Brown

Tuesday, May 13th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm
The Chat Room Café, 1862 N. Young Circle, Hollywood, Fl. 954-920-9299.
Open Mike 7:00-10:00pm

Wednesday, May 14th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm

Thursday, May 15th

Cancun Mexican Grill, 1828 Harrison St., Hollywood. Songwriters Showcase 7:30 pm. Open Mike, 9:00p.m. 954-922-8515.
Live Music at Main Street Café (See Concerts List for details)
The Pelican's Nest, 10442 SW 86th Street, Miami, 305-254-0108, on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Open mike, Lenny Batista.
Backstage, 12201 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, Phone Art. 305-688-5106.
Acoustic Jam Session with Jomo, master Mbira-player.

Friday, May 16th

Folk Friday, N. Miami (see first page)
Open Mike at Main Street Café, 128 N. Krome Avneue, Homestead.
The Luna Star Café. Nicholas the Storyteller. Open Mike 10:00pm.

Saturday, May 17th

Contra Dance at the American Czech-Slovak Cultural Club 13325 Arch Creek Road, North Miami. No partner is needed. Instruction at 7:30 p.m., dance starts at 8:00 pm. \$5.00 donation, bring a snack to share: <http://www.fiddlers-grove.com/everglad.html> or contact Guy 954-524-8990 or Warren 561-395-7338.

Unitarian Universalist Church of South Miami. Open mike and coffee house.
Mike Malone 305-662-4003

Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125 Street, North Miami, Open Mike with Tony Thomas, 305-892-8522.

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-12.00 pm
Main Street Café - sing a long, Pathfinders, Phone 305-245-7575

Sunday, May 18th

Broward Folk Club Sing-Out in the Park, Secret Woods nature Center, 2701 State Road 84, Fort Lauderdale, Phone 954-252-9437.

Monday, May 19th

Open mike at The Taurus Grill, 3540 Main Highway, Coconut Grove from 7:30 pm to 11pm with John Brown

Tuesday, May 20th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm

The Chat Room Café, 1862 N. Young Circle, Hollywood, Fl. 954-920-9299.
Open Mike 7:00-10:00pm

Thursday, May 22nd

Live Music at Main Street Café (See Concerts List for details)
The Pelican's Nest, 10442 SW 86th Street, Miami, 305-254-0108, on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Open mike, Lenny Batista.
Backstage, 12201 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, Phone Art. 305-688-5106.
Acoustic Jam Session with Jomo, master Mbira-player.

Friday, May 23rd

Open Mike at Main Street Café, 128 N. Krome Avneue, Homestead.
The Luna Star Café. Nicholas the Storyteller. Open Mike 10:00pm.

Saturday, May 24th

Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125 Street, North Miami, Open Mike with Tony Thomas, 305-892-8522.

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-12.00 pm
Main Street Café - sing a long with the Pathfinders, Phone Laurie at: 305-245-7575

Sunday, May 25th

Broward Folk Club Open House (Free). Song Swap, jam, covered dish party. Contact Janis, 561-487-0253 or grubel@interpoint.net

Monday, May 26th

Open mke at The Taurus Grill, 3540 Main Highway, Coconut Grove from 7:30 pm to 11pm with John Brown

Tuesday, May 27th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm

The Chat Room Café, 1862 N. Young Circle, Hollywood, Fl. 954-920-9299.
Open Mike 7:00-10:00pm

Wednesday, May 28th

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-11 pm

Thursday, May 29th

Live Music at Main Street Café (See Concerts List for details)
The Pelican's Nest, 10442 SW 86th Street, Miami, 305-254-0108, on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 12:00 pm Open mike with Lenny Batista.
Backstage, 12201 NW 7th Avenue, North Miami, Phone Art. 305-688-5106.
Acoustic Jam Session with Jomo, master Mbira-player.

Friday, May 30th

Open Mike at Main Street Café, 128 N. Krome Avneue, Homestead.
The Luna Star Café. Nicholas the Storyteller. Open Mike after Nicholas (10:00pm.)

Saturday, May 31st

Chocolate Moose, 9118 S.R. 84 (I-595 & Pine Island Road) Davie. (954-474-5040) Open Mike, 8-12.00 pm
Main Street Café - sing a long with the Pathfinders, Phone Laurie at: 305-245-7575

MICHAEL STOCK

on Folk and Acoustic Music

WLRN radio presenter, Michael Stock's monthly column about South Florida's folk and acoustic music scene. Listen to Michael's show every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on WLRN, 91.3 MHz. Contact Michael at : 305-995-2220, or email: mstock@wlrn.org



A Mighty Wind is a blowing down that endless road, as well as every other tacky folk cliché, will be heard in a new movie by Christopher Guest called "A Mighty Wind". As I write this (update: the "official" war in Iraq is over) "The Mighty Wind" has not been released in south Florida but it is getting positive reviews where it has. With the success of "Oh Brother Where Art Thou", as well as breakthrough artists Allison Kraus and Nickel Creek, and now "A Mighty Wind", folk music might just be on the verge of another revival. I hope this new movie will give us an appreciation for that time when folk music reigned. The great folk revival of the 60's, when the Kingston Trio, in their striped shirts, sang in harmony with everyone else joyfully singing along. Dave Van Ronk* has also referred to that time as "The Great Folk Scare" because that was when the music was bad, just before the Beatles forever changed American pop music. In my innocent youth, I did not even like Pete Seeger, partly because, as Woody Guthrie said, Peter is a singer of folk songs and not a folk singer. I know better now, Pete is a living legend, but I don't think this movie will change my opinion on The New Christy Minstrels. Anyway, lets go see a folk movie!

Let me tell you what I have planned on my show this month. May 4th - The New Last Rights in the studio as well as Cajun & Zydeco music, preparing for the great festival in Ft Lauderdale. May 11th is mother's day, any requests?

May 18th - This is Dave Van Ronk Day around the world and NYC is the epicenter. Dave had such an incredible impact on folk music that a street is being named after him in Greenwich Village today. Rod MacDonald will be in our studio to help us celebrate. Pat Humphries will help us celebrate Phil Oches Night, and Julie Patchouli will also be here. May 25th - I don't want to say his age, but Bob Dylan's Birthday will be celebrated on this show.

CD REVIEW'S**Fred Bailey - Ain't Comin' Back this Year**

Fred Bailey writes with great humanness, as well as soft touches of pity, humor, compassion, and sometimes a sense of sorrow. The title tune reflects his feelings about school reunions and each passing 5-year interval. He also confronts our involvement in foreign wars (he is a Vietnam veteran), addresses the religionists who forcefully proselytize, and protests our oppression of America's indigenous peoples. His guitar playing is very rhythmic and precise in the finger picking style of better traditional folk songs.

Track 3, "Windmills" portrays the remnants of the recent past culture of homesteads abandoned in the wake of the tragic Dust Bowl years. Another favorite of mine, track 7 "The Cherokee Kid" tells of Will Rogers, whose jokes, pokes, and observations are still appropriate today. "Delaware County Line" is a lament about cultural change and diminishing traditions. "Sing Me the Sky" is a joyous sing-along tribute to nature with an audience singing on the chorus, and "Flutter-byes" is a wondrous song about watching butterflies and fleeting magic moments of human life.

There are many good songs on this CD: I recommend it highly to those who appreciate American music written in the tradition of the great folk and acoustic musicians of the 1950's and 60's. These songs explore timeless and contemporary themes. Fred Bailey is a gifted observer of life, a fine writer. He sings and plays with great clarity and caring for humanity, nature, and life. Contact: www.fredbaileymusic.com

Reviewed by David M. Thornburgh / 23 Nov 2002

Si Kahn - Threads

Doubletime Music / 13 songs, 43:10 / 2002

Si Kahn is and long has been a national hero in folk and acoustic music. He is also an activist whose music is but an outgrowth of his commitment as a key member and founder of The Grassroots Leadership organization, that is dedicated to bettering the lives of workers and others in the rural South by empowering labor, people, and various groups. Any description of the lyrics cannot possibly do justice to the beautiful, powerful, and graceful melodies and musicianship on the disc. The CD is a concept album about the cotton industry, those involved in it, and the issues surrounding the cultivation, the harvesting of cotton, and the manufacture of its products. A wide scope of issues is presented: from toil in the fields to the

profits of middlemen, unionizing, and medical fallout from breathing cotton dust in the mills.

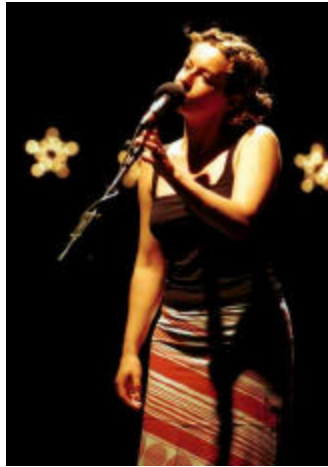
This CD is a very moving, well-written, and well-performed body of songs. The many fans of Mr. Kahn will probably already have it in their collections. For the rest of us newly-aware of his many talents, I highly recommend this CD. Michael Stock has played many of Mr. Kahn's songs over the years on his radio show. I am more aware now of Mr. Kahn's work, through this review, and I'm looking forward to finding more of his recorded works to appreciate in the months and years ahead. The instruments used on this album are played by a few very skilled backing musicians, as well as by Mr. Kahn, whose singing is good. The instruments are mostly acoustic, and they include mandolin, accordion, double bass, guitar, banjo, dobro, mandola, and violin in many combinations on various songs. There is also a sparse, tasteful, occasional touch of synthesizer and, in a few places, elegant percussion. Copies of this CD can be ordered at www.doubletimemusic.com. The Grassroots Leadership's mailing address is P.O. Box 36006, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28236.

Reviewed by David M. Thornburgh / 21 Dec 2002

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Kate Rusby

She's still only 20-something, but Kate can't be described as a rising star any more. Not when she's been played on mainstream radio and established an ardent following among people who'd previously sworn blind they hated folk music.



Not when she's had everyone from Bonnie Raitt and Richard Thompson to Andy Kershaw and Jo Whiley singing her praises. Not when she's topped folk and roots charts all over the place and headlined major festivals all over Europe. Not with three wondrous solo albums Hourglass, Sleepless and Little Lights. Kate remains wonderfully unaffected by all the acclaim and crossover attention heaped on her. As she told those nice people at the Mercury Music Prize ceremony, she's a folk singer first and foremost and always will be. The inherently dramatic storytelling of folk song has the

same allure to her now as it did when she first heard her parents singing those songs to her when she was a toddler. Spending her childhood at folk festivals and listening to Nic Jones on her Walkman when all her friends were listening to Bon Jovi, she inevitably turned up playing fiddle and singing harmonies in her parents' ceilidh dance band when she was 12. Another Barnsley, England folk star, Dave Burland, inspired her to take up the guitar and at 15 she got her first gig at Holmfirth Festival. She hasn't looked back since, gradually developing her style to include the odd contemporary song (Iris Dement's Our Town on Sleepless and Richard Thompson's Withered And Died on Little Lights) and developing her own songwriting to nestle easily alongside the traditional material. There are four of her own songs plus one co-written with John McCusker (her husband) on Little Lights.

The last five years have been "brilliant" but clearly there's plenty more inspiration where that came from and late in 2000 she even overcame her terror of flying long enough to finally make her first tour of America. Ever unassuming, she still claims to be bemused by why people love her music so much, but with little time for reflection, she will be undertaking another tour with her band and generally flying the flag for British folk music in places that it doesn't always reach. She's even agreed to another American trip in the summer. "I don't really have long term plans apart from continuing to make the music I want to for as long as I can. You never know what's going to happen so you just have to work hard and be good to people and hope life treats you well. So far it mostly has and I really do believe I've been so lucky."

The Luna Star Cafe



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WEBSITE LINKS

- The **FCSF Website** is maintained by Webmaster: **George Blackwell**.

Folk Club of South Florida: <http://members.aol.com/souflafolk>
 Broward Folk Club: www.browardfolkclub.com
 Singer's House Concert Series: www.singerfolkmusic.com
 North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance: www.folk.org

South Florida Folk Festival: www.southfloridafolkfest.com
 Michael Stock Folk & Acoustic Show: MSTOCK@WLRN.ORG
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