

KEVIN WELCH

Kevin Welch's poetic songs paint pictures of real people so clearly that you realize quickly he's a keen observer of the human experience. Kevin's latest CD, with Kieran Kane and Fats Kaplin, brings the artistic vision home again, with a warmth that truly captures the feeling of close friends playing music in an intimate setting.

KEYSTONE STATION

The repertoire of Keystone Station is based on the songs of such notables as the late "Father of Bluegrass," Mr. Bill Monroe, as well as the Stanley Brothers and Flatt and Scruggs. With haunting three-part harmonies and hot instrumental picking on acoustic instruments, Keystone Station is steeped in the bluegrass tradition.

KIERAN KANE

Kieran Kane's explorations of mature love, friends' struggles with personal difficulties and the meaning of life lead directly to his philosophical explorations of faith and life on his latest release, *Lost John Dean* (with Kevin Welch and Fats Kaplin.)

LAURIE LEWIS & THE RIGHT HANDS

Legend is not always loud, particularly in the beneath-the-radar substreams of American folk music and bluegrass. You can't measure Laurie Lewis's 30-year career with the usual commercial yardsticks. She has won a Grammy and twice been named Female Vocalist of the Year by the IBMA.

NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS

NMAS' new album *Electric Blue Watermelon* is certainly a departure from the blues tradition, but it is a record that reaches in the future and back into the past. It's loud psychedelic southern folk rock blues.

POOR MAN'S WHISKEY

Poor Man's Whiskey plays Californicana, a blend of acoustic music shaken with rock-n-roll attitude. They've crafted original and modern American music that inspires you to shake off the day's burdens, dance, shout and laugh. They're known for creating a hoe-down wherever they go.

RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT

Since he first came on the scene in the late '50s, Ramblin' Jack influenced everyone from Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger to the Rolling Stones and the Grateful Dead. The son of a New York doctor and a onetime traveling companion of Woody Guthrie, Elliott used his self-made cowboy image to bring his love of folk music to one generation after another.

RICHARD THOMPSON

Named by Rolling Stone Magazine as one of the Top 20 Guitarists of all-time, the iconic British folk rock legend is one of the world's most critically acclaimed and prolific songwriters. His work is admired and recorded by such artists as Bonnie Raitt, David Byrne and Elvis Costello. Newsweek recently announced, "like all genuine art, it satisfies completely."

RICHIE FURAY

Richie Furay helped shape the sound of folk and country rock as we know it today. When he started Buffalo Springfield with Neil Young and Stephen Stills, it seemed his destiny had finally arrived. Furay remained a musical pioneer, forming Poco and recording some of the first—and best—country rock music of the sixties and seventies.

RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER

By age 21, Skaggs was already considered a recognized master of one of America's most demanding art forms, but his career took him in other directions, catapulting him to popularity and success in the mainstream of country music. Now the road has brought him back to where it all began - bluegrass music.

ROBERT EARL KEEN

REK strikes an unusual balance between sensitive story-portraits and raucous barroom fun. Keen has inspired much praise from music critics over the years. Rolling Stone wrote "Keen takes a page from Lucinda Williams, backing up his unassuming, dusky tunes with punchy guitars and well-manicured country-rock grooves."

SCOTT MILLER & THE COMMONWEALTH

The songs and albums of songwriter/guitarist/vocalist Scott Miller have always possessed a strong sense of place. His newest album has songs that emerge from broken-in seats in a vehicle that roars down the highway, songs set stateside and on battlefields, songs that seem to spring from the pages of historical biographies.

STEVE EARLE & THE BLUEGRASS DUKES

This is a rare chance to see one of our time's most vital, innovative, and often controversial songwriter's works performed with delicate touch that only the finest of bluegrass musicians could deliver.

T BONE BURNETT

T Bone Burnett is an American original; he is a songwriter and performer steeped in our nation's deep musical heritage. He is a Grammy-winning producer, an Oscar-nominated songwriter, an indie record label founder, a soundtrack composer/Executive Music Producer and a versatile studio wizard.

THE AVETT BROTHERS

When people ask Scott and Seth Avett how long they've been playing music they'll usually say, "forever," though under the name The Avett Brothers they've only been playing for a relatively short amount of time. Yet, the Avett's sound is indicative of a lifetime of development and an implicit partnership.

THE COWARD BROTHERS

Legends Elvis Costello and T Bone Burnett come together for a very special performance.

THE DEL MCCOURY BAND

Throughout the last 2 decades, the Del McCoury Band has embodied the best qualities of bluegrass. They have received exposure in the mainstream for collaboration with the rock group Phish, and recorded an album with Steve Earle. Today Del is revitalized, re-energized and making the best music of his illustrious career.

THE DEVIL MAKES THREE

Mixing styles from the ragtime and country music of the twenties and thirties to the rock and roll and punk music of their adolescence, TDMT pushes the boundaries of acoustic music. They cite influences as varied as Steve Earle, the Reverend Gary Davis, Memphis Jug Band, and Django Reinhardt.

THE LEE BOYS

Exhilarating. Energetic. Exciting. Freeing. Fun. Inspiring. Spirited. Soulful. Thrilling. These are only some of the words fans have used in trying to describe how The Lee Boys make them feel. The Lee Boys are one of Florida's finest African-American Sacred Steel Artists. The hottest movement on the music scene these days is the "Sacred Steel" sound.

THE NASHVILLE BLUEGRASS BAND

Members of the Nashville Bluegrass Band performed on the wildly successful film soundtracks *O Brother Where Art Thou* and *Down from the Mountain*. With two Grammy Awards, two IBMA Entertainer of the Year honors and four wins as IBMA's Vocal Group of the Year, The Nashville Bluegrass Band is no stranger to acclaim.

THE OPERA DUKES

The Opera Dukes ask the question "what would happen if you combined Opera with Bluegrass?" Opera singers will perform in a completely unique amalgam of both traditions and draw parallels between the genres. They'll perform "grassed up" versions of arias by Rossini, Donizetti, and Floyd alongside traditional Bluegrass.

THE PINE LEAF BOYS

The Pine Leaf Boys play Cajun/Zydeco music like no other twentysomethings you've ever heard. Musical polygamists, they frequently swap accordions, guitars, fiddles midshow and sound good no matter who is playing what.

THE STAIRWELL SISTERS

San Francisco's all-gal urban old-time tear-down are cutting a new figure in traditional music. With a deep and rowdy repertoire of timeless tunes plus a solid standing of smart, original material that is winning praise, they lay down concerts and square dances for counter-culturalists of every generation.

TIM O'BRIEN'S CORNBREAD NATION WITH SPECIAL GUEST MOLLIE O'BRIEN

Songs collect in Tim O'Brien's world as comfortably as family heirlooms. They come from around the world, and morph into new ideas and new songs that update old truths about the human condition. **Mollie O'Brien** approaches each song with an ease that shows her mastery of the style ever since the first time a note left her throat.

THE WAYBACKS WITH SPECIAL GUEST BOB WEIR

Possessed of dazzling instrumental chops and an absolute mastery of acoustic musical styles, The Waybacks are an eclectic acoustic quintet, steeped in a wide array of Americana idioms. The band is joined by legendary Grateful Dead member Bob Weir for this very special performance.

THE WRONGLERS

This is a true highlight of the festival this year, as Mr. Warren Hellman himself takes the stage!

TODD SNIDER

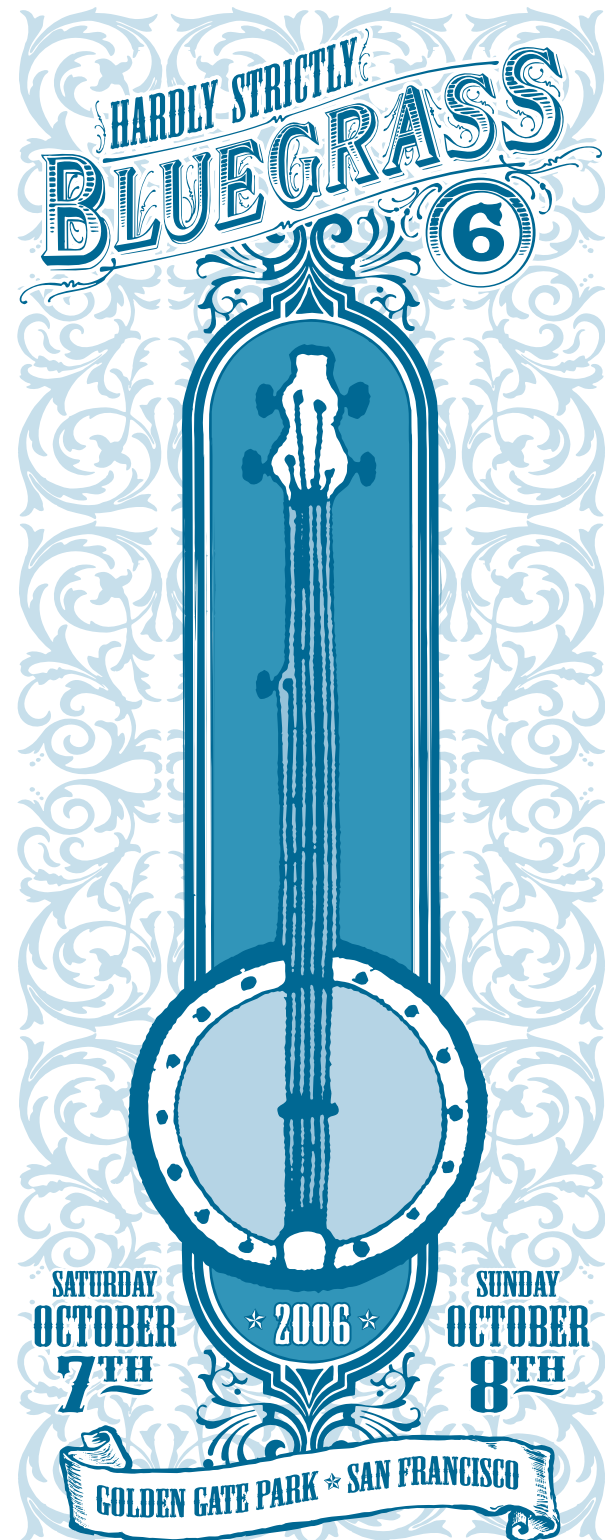
For twelve years, Snider has been a satirist, class cutup and the rare artist who understands and celebrates the connections between the Stones, Dylan, Bill Hicks, John Prine, Mitch Hedberg, Kris Kristofferson, Hunter S. Thompson and Randy Newman.

VERLON THOMPSON

Verlon's songs have been recorded by Kenny Rogers, Del McCoury Band, Sam Bush, Suzy Bogguss, Randy Travis, Guy Clark, Jerry Jeff Walker and more. He says, "I picked on Mom's mandolin, Uncle Kenneth's guitar, Aunt Bessie's piano, and Cousin Elmer Dee's lap steel...Mom showed me everything she knew and those basics are still the core of my playing style."

WILLY MASON

Just 21, Willy has a gruff, weathered tone like that of his folk-rock for-bearers. Indeed, Mason seems to belong to a society that doesn't readily exist in the age of computers and technology. Rather, he might seem more at home in the rootsy, rustic early years of Dylan and Neil Young.



A.J. ROACH

Talented and thought provoking, this is one act you don't want to miss. Roach's lyrics are at turns deeply personal, lighthearted, comical, fanciful, and spellbinding. This songwriter never loses sight of his first calling as a master storyteller.

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO

Alejandro Escovedo has been hailed as a poet, as a storyteller, and as one of the most important musicians of the last quarter-century. He blends rock, folk, blues and classically influenced music into a boundary-defying style that has won him a devoted following all over the world.

ALISON BROWN QUARTET WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOE CRAVEN

Alison achieved an international reputation as a banjo player by pushing the instrument out of its familiar Appalachian settings and into new musical territory. **Joe Craven** is a madman with *anything* that has strings attached, including hospital bed pans, gas cans, cookie tins, roasting pots, fiddles, mandolins, tenor guitars, and many more.

ALLISON MOORER

Allison Moorer was born into a musical family (her sister is Shelby Lynne) and raised in the small southern Alabama town of Frankville. She wrote almost every song on her new album (her second for Sugar Hill) and it was produced by her husband, Steve Earle.

ANNIE & THE VETS

You may laugh, you may cry but you'll certainly think a lot about what's going on in our world after you hear these political/protest/country/folk style songs about peace, sung by members of Veterans for Peace. "We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace."

AUSTIN LOUNGE LIZARDS

The Austin Lounge Lizards have been performing satirical folk music for more than 26 years. The Lizards have become the darlings of activist groups, who have relied on their songwriting talents to parody subjects such as abuses of the pharmaceutical industry, media conglomerates, health care and more.

BANJO EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING

BILL EVANS, TONY TRISCHKA & ALAN MUNDE Bill, Tony and Alan are some of the world's most innovative banjo players. Each has had a long and rich history of playing, teaching and writing for the instrument, and have blazed trails in genres normally considered out-of-bounds for the banjo. They will come together to perform as a group in this special performance!

BARBARY COAST CLOGGERS

Barbary Coast Cloggers have consistently delighted audiences with their high energy spin on this rich dance tradition, which includes fast paced music, traditional steps and patterns, and a heavy, syncopated, uniform style.

BILLY BRAGG

Billy Bragg is described by The (London) Times newspaper as a "national treasure." In the decades of his career, Bragg has certainly made an indelible mark on the conscience of music, becoming perhaps the most stalwart guardian of the radical dissenting tradition that stretches back over centuries.

BRUCE ROBISON

Described as "one of the best of a new breed of singer-songwriters in Texas and beyond" by Billboard magazine, Bruce has built a career as a recording artist whose songs are sought out by country stars. He penned a No. 1 hit for the Dixie Chicks and a chart-topper for Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, among many others!

CHATHAM COUNTY LINE

Chatham County Line are a North Carolina foursome who first came together in 1999. They merge a traditional bluegrass sound and first-class picking with pithy songwriting that often confronts personal issues and political matters head on.

CHIP TAYLOR & CARRIE RODRIGUEZ

When Chip first saw Carrie play at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas in 2001, he was not only wowed by the brilliance he heard in her playing, but also sensed a magical presence. He invited her to join him on some subsequent shows in Texas and then a tour of Europe... and the rest is history.

DALE ANN BRADLEY & COON CREEK

USA Today says, "The angel-voiced Bradley is one of the finest talents in bluegrass." Alison Krauss says, "Dale Ann Bradley is one of the most gifted vocalists bluegrass and country music has ever hears. She is a dream." If ever there was a person born to sing it is Dale Ann Bradley.

DANNY BARNES COLLECTIVE

Danny Barnes is America's irreplaceable alchemist of acoustic razzle-dazzle, open-borders ecumenism, and downhome chutzpah. He plays blues and old-timey-tinged songs on banjo and guitar with occasional fiddle and bass guitar, and writes taut, witty lyrics.

DAVID BERKELEY

Imagine a road trip in Nick Drake's old car, give Ryan Adams a seat, Grant Lee Phillips is there, maybe Beck has the wheel and Joni Mitchell is giving directions. The music they'd listen to would be pretty close to the music of this young, charismatic singer based in Georgia. His voice is warm like a tumbler of bourbon. He believes in the lyrics he writes, and he sings them from the marrow of his bones.

DAVID GANS TRIO

He's best known for his work with the Grateful Dead, but singer-songwriter David Gans has a voice, a style and a songbook all his own. "He's not just a one man band, he's the future of singer-songwriting!" says Wired Magazine. "Some of the most exciting stuff emanating from one guy with a guitar that I've seen."

DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER

One of the top mandolin players in bluegrass music since the early days of his career in the 1960s, Doyle Lawson incorporated traditional gospel singing into his music after forming his own band, Quicksilver, and honed his unique bluegrass-gospel sound to a remarkable intensity.

DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS

Following in the footsteps of The Band, the Drive-By Truckers are today's version of rock 'n' roll journeymen, touring with a relentlessness that few independent bands can match. Equal parts back porch historians, runaway drunken firecrackers, and poets of the hard life and how to live it.

DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD

For more than 25 years, Dry Branch Fire Squad has been one of bluegrass music's most popular bands, renowned for its spry mix of front-porch standards, modern ballads, and the old-time sounds from which bluegrass first sprang.

EARL SCRUGGS

Earl Scruggs is to the five-string banjo what Paganini was to the violin. After more than 20 years with the Foggy Mountain Boys, he formed the Earl Scruggs Revue with his two sons. On February 13, 2003, Scruggs received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

EMMYLOU HARRIS

Emmylou is truly a modern innovator. For over 30 years, Emmylou has flowed effortlessly between genres achieving popularity in pop, folk, country and now alternative. The common bridge is an exquisite vocal style and a gift for discovering the heart of a song.

ETIENNE DE ROCHER

Etienne is graced with easygoing charm and flair, and his years-in-the-making debut album confirms this. Although this is indeed his first full length cd, he's certainly no rookie. He's been honing his songcraft from a very early age. De Rocher's well-crafted soft rock stylings are embellished with subtle strings that add that extra air of elegance.

FATS KAPLIN

Born and raised in New York City, influenced by jazz, gypsy, and traditional string band music, Fats Kaplin had already been featured on legendary recordings and extensive tours by the time he was 18 years old. He's one of the music industry's leading multi-instrumentalists (fiddle, steel, accordion, mandolin, guitar and so on.)

FLYING OTHER BROTHERS

The freewheeling creative conspiracy that is the Flying Other Brothers has emerged as a modern-day musical Merry Pranksters of sorts, coupling airtight arrangements with the high-wire adventures of collective spontaneity and exploration.

FOUR YEAR BENDER

Lazy acoustic strumming, harmonica humming, some accordion here, upright bass there ... with bristling, world-weary vocals and understated production, its the kind of tear-in-ma-beer, down-but-not-out hopeful heartbreak that marks the best traditional country music.

FREAKWATER

Fiercely independent and totally disregarding of musical trends, Janet Bean and Catherine Irwin have made some of the finest country records ever put down and cultivated a passionate fan base. They move into uncharted territory with each record, using honky tonk, bluegrass, and "countrypolitan."

G.E. SMITH

One of the most in-demand blues/rock guitarists in the world is a mysterious character who goes by the name of G.E. (George Edward) Smith. G.E. is a soulful guitarist, composer, singer and bandleader.

GILLIAN WELSH

Gillian Welch first appeared on the folk scene as a young singer/songwriter armed with a voice and sensibility far beyond her years, earning widespread acclaim for her deft, evocative resurrection of the musical styles most commonly associated with rural Appalachia.

GUY CLARK

Guy Clark's been aptly portrayed as a national treasure. The native Texan has devoted his life to crafting masterful, poignant melodies and lyrics that have earned him the richly deserved title of "Songbuilder." Last fall, The Americana Music Association honored Guy with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting.

HAZEL DICKENS

Combining the songwriting abilities of Woody Guthrie with the straight-ahead singing skills of Kitty Wells, Hazel has been an inspiration for a whole new generation of women singers in the bluegrass and country music fields.

HEIDI CLARE & ATAGALLOP

This is athletic fiddling done by an athlete. Once she's in her "groove" (her word) it would take an old-time southwest Ohio bluegrass bar fight to dislodge her.

HOT TUNA (ACOUSTIC)

Begun as an acoustic spin-off of Jefferson Airplane, Hot Tuna eventually became the full-time focus of founding members Jack Casady and Jorma Kaukonen. The Delta Blues sound spawned this three decade wonder band with one of the most faithful audiences in popular music.

IRIS DEMENT

One of the most celebrated country-folk performers of her day, DeMent's work is introspective and deeply personal, and sometimes fiercely political, tackling topics like sexual abuse, religion, government policy, and Vietnam.

JEFFREY LUCK LUCAS & THE SORROWS

On the merits of his first solo album, Jeffrey Luck Lucas deserves a following, and more than a medium-sized one at that. On *Hell Then Devine*, Lucas proves to be a country agonist with Daniel Lanois-like production and a Dylanesque literary imagination. His voice is a great instrument, and world weary beyond its years.

JERRY DOUGLAS & BEST KEPT SECRET

In addition to being widely acknowledged as America's foremost master of the dobro, the twelve-time Grammy winner is a free-wheeling, forward-thinking recording artist whose output draws upon a bottomless well of musical inspiration.

JODY STETCHER & KATE BRISLIN

With a stunning mix of several traditional instrumentals and evocative contemporary songs by writers ranging from Hazel Dickens to Iris DeMent, Jody and Kate's soulful duets and lovely instrumental accompaniment embody the best of old-time music, Southern gospel harmony and string band traditions.

JON LANGFORD, RICO BELL & SALLY TIMMS OF THE MEKONS

There is twang hidden deep within the hearts of life-long Mekons and unrepentant punk rockers Jon Langford, Sally Timms, and Rico Bell.

KELLY WILLIS

Kelly's influences range from Patsy Cline, Wanda Jackson, the Blasters, the Tail Gators and the Leroi Brothers. Upon hearing Kelly sing, Nanci Griffith headed for the phone and dialed MCA producer Tony Brown, who had signed Griffith as well as Steve Earle.

KEMO SABE

A wild acoustic trio that plays what they call "modern-day campfire songs" with the bare-wire energy of punk rock. There's mandolin, a beat-up upright bass, acoustic guitar, and calamity. At times fast and furious, at other times soft and sweet, they kick around a variety of genres from bluegrass to klezmer to rock n' roll.