



Delaware Friends of Folk

May 2005 Newsletter

Tracy Grammer comes to Dover for May 21st Coffeehouse

Smyrna Native Justin McNatt to open...

This month's coffee house is one we've been looking forward to for quite a while. Bringing the amazing talents of Tracy Grammer to Dover, let alone to our coffee house, is a really BIG step for Friends of Folk. We have always promoted the many wonderful local performers at our events—it is the reason we exist. And for a number of years we have occasionally brought regional touring artists to town. But Tracy Grammer is different.

How, you say? Some excerpts from her web site help tell the story: Born in Homestead, Florida and raised in southern California, Tracy Grammer comes from a musical family. Cousin Leo Fortin played double trumpets in Lawrence Welk's band, while her grandmothers and mother played keyboards and accordion. But it was her guitar-playing father who was her first true inspiration.

"When Dad used to get out his lap steel and electric guitars, we'd invite the neighborhood kids over and sing country songs. I'd sit across from my dad and read the music upside-down so I could turn the pages for him. I developed an ear for harmony early on and hardly ever sang the melody," she muses, "and it drove my little brother crazy."

At the age of nine, Tracy began choral and classical violin studies and led regional and school orchestras until she left home for the University of California, Berkeley. Once there, she gave up music while earning an English literature degree and serving as an administrator and graphic designer for the University.

During a semester off, Tracy's father introduced her to Curtis Coleman, formerly of the New Christy Minstrels. Coleman invited her to perform with him at local pub and coffeehouse shows. She had recorded a few songs in tourist booths at San Francisco's Pier 39, but getting up on stage with Coleman was pivotal. "Performing revived a part of me that felt like it had been dormant for eternities," says Tracy. "I had abandoned music for several years and couldn't for the life of me figure out why." That fall, she took up the guitar, dusted off her violin, and began in earnest to hone her craft.

Tracy saw Dave Carter perform at a songwriter showcase in February 1996, just weeks after she moved to Portland, Oregon. "Here were stories that could stand alone as poetry, sung with compassion, intelligence, and a hint of Texas twang. Dave's entire presentation felt like home to me. I knew instantly that I was in the presence of greatness; I knew I had received my calling in life." They met on the way out the door, and within weeks were working up material with a band. They began touring in late 1997 and during the summer of 1998, recorded their first album, *When I Go*, in the Tracy's kitchen.

By 2000, they were signed to Signature Sounds and released *Tanglewood Tree* on the well-respected Massachusetts label. The album swept the folk airwaves, finishing as the #1 Most Played Album on Folk Radio for 2000. The 2001 release of the polished *Drum Hat Buddha* brought Tracy into high relief. Her vocals were featured on fully half of the cuts and her astute production leadership resulted in what many regarded as their studio tour de force. With mainstream airplay on the Triple A charts and solid Americana and folk play as well, the duo was flooded with praise. "If the voice of modern folk is changing - it is going to sound a lot like Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer." (Boston Globe); "In any rational universe, Carter & Grammer would be spoken of in the same terms of Bob Dylan and John Lennon...their recording is that good." (Dirty Linen).

Tragically, Dave left this earthly plane in July of 2002. Tracy's brave response to her own loss was to embrace the musical community's collective loss. In the following weeks, she anchored musical tributes at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk

Festival, and the official Portland memorial service. With a composure informed by emotional depth, Grammer lifted her lone voice with grace and power -- ensuring Dave Carter's legacy and her own solo journey in music.

Just days after Dave passed away, Grammer foretold her musical future in a letter she posted on their web site: "We need to keep this music alive, it was always my mission that the world hear and know the poetry and vision and wonderful mystical magic of David Carter. This path is broad and long; I hope you will stay the course with me."

Folk music authority Andrew Calhoun of Waterbug Records comments: "No one sings Dave Carter's songs better than Tracy. He chose her to be the voice of his songs. His vision, their vision, was that they shared something they both saw. She is half the reason why they were great."

Just a few weeks ago, Tracy released her second solo record, *Flower of Avalon*. It features nine previously unrecorded Dave Carter songs, plus one traditional tune rearranged and rewritten by Oregon professor William Jolliff. The basic tracks were recorded in December 2003 at Signature Sounds Studios in Palmer, MA. Over the course of 2004, overdubs were tracked at studios in Oregon, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Mixes were finalized in Portland, Oregon on January 7, 2005.

Tracy comments on the release day experience reveal much about her outlook: "So finally, my *Flower of Avalon* found its way into stores across America today. I thought the day would feel differently somehow. Expected to look up beyond this blue sky and see, oh, a certain face in a cloud, nodding and winking down at me in happy approval and congratulations. Thought maybe I'd be mobbed by teenaged fans in the music section of Barnes & Noble, as I happened to be cruising the FOLK section, ever so casually checking stock. But no -- instead, in a moment of stillness which spanned the entire day (that's how it is when a tour comes to an end, you have these limbo days before Life creeps back in), I turned my attention to Spring, grateful that she had finally pried open these dry, winter sticks and coaxed out the blossoms and the budding green all up and down Route 9. That was celebration enough for me. Spring, finally, here in Hadley once again. And the *Flower of Avalon*, born at the right time."

Justin McNatt to open

This special evening will start with one of our most talented "young" players, Justin McNatt. Now 21, Justin showed up at one of our open mic nights when

he was all of 17. He really made an impression on the audience, and we've had him back several times since. Justin has a new recording, produced by Tomas Costanza, A&R Rep. of Hollywood Records. This just might be his key to the "big time".

Justin has played regularly at the Delaware beach spots for the past few years and developed quite a following. His style is reminiscent of Dave Matthews, but that's not the entire story. His songs are insightful, thought-provoking journeys through the life of the next generation. The cords and the rhythms aren't always what you expect, and his songs progress in odd, slightly convoluted paths. New music at its best. We're glad to be able to give our audience a chance to see two such talents.

It all starts at 7:30 pm, May 21, in the Underground on the campus of Wesley College in Dover. Admission for this very special event will be \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. You rarely get an opportunity to see such talent in a small place at any price. We'll have plenty of hot coffee, cool drinks, and sweet snacks. Come out on a fine spring night, bring a friend, and see it happen. Seats are limited, so we highly recommend that you pre-purchase your general admission seat at our web site at <http://www.delfolk.org/shopping.html>.

—John Kidd, President of Delaware Friends of Folk

Tub O'Tunes Raffle!

As another fundraising effort, we have assembled an amazing collection of CD's, which would be a great addition to anyone's music library. Many of the CD's are autographed, including CD's by notables like Bonnie Raitt, Cliff Eberhardt, Ronny Cox, and The Kennedys! There are over 80 CD's in this collection, and the retail value is right around \$1000 (so far). Tickets are just \$4 per chance or 3 chances for \$10.

We'll draw the winner from the main stage of the Delmarva Folk Festival on October 1 (but you won't need to be present to win). You can purchase tickets at any Friends of Folk event, or on the web at <http://www.delfolk.org/shopping.html>. Due to the credit card transaction fees, we have a minimum order of 6 chances for \$20 on-line, but smaller quantities can be purchased at Friends of Folk or Cooldog concerts between now and October 1. We won't sell any more than 2000 chances, so your odds would be at least 1:2000 – not a bad deal!

Beth Fizell, DEFF Board Member

Upcoming Coffeehouses

Mark these dates on your calendar – the Delaware Friends of Folk have arranged some wonderful Coffeehouses for 2005 – mark your calendar now so you don't miss them. They are held at the Underground at Wesley College, 120 N. State St., Dover. Very reasonable prices soft drinks, coffee, tea and snacks are available for sale, and the music starts at 7:30pm. Call 302-736-5585 for more information. Of course, we're always looking for volunteers to help us out: set-up, clean-up, and sales.

Date	Performers	Price *
May 21	Tracy Grammer – national singer/songwriter, with Justin McNatt opening	\$12 / \$15
June 11	Greg Shrader Songwriter Circle , led by <i>Deloy Moore</i>	\$5 / \$7
July 16	Open Mic – <i>Rick & Tish Schuman</i> host	\$3 / \$5
Sept. 17	Phyllis Chapell – world musician who sings in 8 languages	\$5 / \$7
Oct. 22	Dave Potts – Alabama based singer/songwriter; Pinkgrass to open	\$5 / \$7
Nov. 19	Garnet Rogers – Canadian Singer / Songwriter (and Stan's little brother)	\$12 / \$15
Dec. 17	Open Mic – host Rick Hudson	\$3 / \$5

*Pricing is for Members / Non Members. Half price for ages 13-18; Free for Wesley students and children 12 and under

Your Festival Needs You!

The next Delmarva Folk Festival meeting will take place on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at WT Smithers in downtown Dover. Everyone is welcome to attend.

May 29 – Mini-Festival at Cooldog Concerts!

Don't forget about our Fundraiser at Cooldog Concerts on May 29th. Seats are limited, so we highly recommend that you browse on over to our web page at <http://www.delfolk.org/shopping> to reserve your spot now!

Artist	Time
George & Ossi	1:00 pm
Sandcreek	2:00 pm
Richard Browne with Celtic Harvest	3:15 pm
Fitzgerald & Beach	4:15 pm
Full Frontal Folk	5:30 pm

You'll have to RSVP in advance. When you do, you'll get the address and directions. Suggested Donation: \$15; \$10 ages 10-18 and active military

You'll need to bring:

- Lawn Chair or Blanket
- Covered Dish to share (a grill will be available)
- BYOB (prefer no glass)
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray

Additional Notes:

- Children are welcome – a swingset and outdoor activities are available. There is a swimming pool on the site, but there will be a safety cover over it.
- This is a House Concert at a Private Residence. RSVP required. Address will be provided when you RSVP.
- Seating is limited – Reserve Now! Prepaid Donation preferred
- Rain or Shine Event; No Refunds will be given

To RSVP for this event, send an email to houseconcerts@cooldogconcerts.com, or call 302-659-3855. Prepayments are now set up on the <http://www.delfolk.org> website on the Shopping page.

Delmarva Folk Calendar

The complete calendar is at <http://www.delfolk.org/calendar.html>

When	What	Where	More What
May 13,	David Bromberg Quartet, w/ Arlo Guthrie	The Grand Opera House, Wilmington	This show is part of the "David Bromberg's My Own House" Series. Adults \$35, \$37, \$39
May 13, 8pm	A Journey to the Heartland - a Celtic-Americana celebration	Avalon Theatre, Easton, MD	Two of America's finest hammered dulcimer performers Ken Kolodner and Maggie Sansone, w/ special guests Jim Eagan on fiddle; Paul Oorts on guitar; Lisa Moscatiello on vocals and Fred Lieder on cello. \$20
May 14, 1pm	Friends of Folk Celtic Session	W.T. Smithers, State St. Dover	All are welcome - bring an instrument or just your ears. Call (302) 465-0805 for more info
May 14, 2pm	Judith Kay	Bear Library, Bear DE	Judith Kay - Brazilian Bossa Nova and American Swing-era Jazz.
May 14	Liz Carroll & John Doyle	4W5 Cafe, Wilmington	Celtic Fiddle & guitar. Call 302-798-4811 for more info.
May 15, 2pm	John Lilly	Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin	W. Va. Multi-instrumentalist performing original, trad, and classic country music. Presented by Brandywine Friends of Old-Time Music. 12:30 - 4:30pm spring picnic. \$5 gen public, free for BFOTM mbrs. Call 475-3454 or email bfotm@dca.net
May 18, 9pm	June Jam People's Choice contest	Bubba's, In front of Home Depot, Dover	The winner of this event gets to perform at the June Jam. Finalists are Lower Case Blues, Irratic, Dr. Longwood, and The Salvators (Jimi Brown, Mr. Greg Haughey of The Supertones, Chris Fotz and Salli Fulkerson). \$3 cover, proceeds to benefit the USO.
May 19, 7pm	Salli & Jimi	The Green, Dover	"Light Rock". Spring & Summer Performing Arts Series. Free
May 20, 7pm	Spring Concert to benefit Tsunami victims	St. Paul's Episcopal Church at E. Pine and Academy Sts., Georgetown	Performing will be Partners in Rhyme (Greg Ellingsworth, Tad Jones and Deloy Moore) and many more. (302) 856-2894 No tickets sold, but a freewill offering will be taken.
May 21, 7:30	Friends of Folk Coffeeshouse	The Underground, Wesley College	Tracy Grammer, with Justin McNatt opening
May 21, 8pm	Seldom Scene	Avalon Theatre, Easton, MD	DC based bluegrass. \$22
May 21, 9pm	Winkle Neck Mules	Andy's, Chestertown, MD	Bluegrass. A great smoke-free listening lounge with bar.
May 21, 8pm	The Flying Butch Zito Brothers, with Michelle McCann & Friends opening	4W5 Cafe, Wilmington	CD Release Party for "Butchie Songs". \$5 cover, \$3 students.
May 22	Richard Thompson	Avalon Theatre, Easton, MD	Formerly of Fairport Convention, Thompson is a legend. Rolling Stone magazine said he's No 19 of the World's 100 Greatest Guitarists. \$35

When	What	Where	More What
May 22, 7pm	John Flynn w/ Reilly & Maloney and Jack Greenwald	Upper Merion Under the Stars Concert Series, King of Prussia, PA	\$10.00 per person, ages 16 and under, and ages 62+ are FREE. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. No Smoking anywhere in the park.
May 25, 8pm	Allison Krauss and Union Station	Wicomico Youth and Civic Center	Salisbury, MD
May 26, 7pm	Newspaper Taxi	The Green, Dover	"Acoustic Classic Rock". Spring & Summer Performing Arts Series. Free
May 27, 9pm	Adrienne Young & Little Sadie	Andy's, Chestertown, MD	Newgrass & Old Time Country. A great smoke-free listening lounge with bar.
May 28, 1pm	Friends of Folk Pick-In	W.T. Smithers, State St. Dover	All are welcome - bring an instrument or just your ears. Call (302) 465-0805 for more info
May 29, 1pm	Full Frontal Folk, Fitzgerald & Beach, George & Ossi, Richard Browne w/ Celtic Harvest & Sandcreek!	Cooldog Concerts	Cooldog hosts a benefit for the Delaware Friends of Folk. Call 302-659-3855; Go to delfolk.org to prepay your donation and reserve your spot.
May 29, 7pm	Tom Paxton w/ Eliza Gilkyson	Upper Merion Under the Stars Concert Series, King of Prussia, PA	\$10.00 per person, ages 16 and under, and ages 62+ are FREE. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. No Smoking anywhere in the park.
June 1, 6:30pm	Friends of Folk Festival Comm. Meeting	W.T. Smithers, State St. Dover	All are welcome - volunteers always needed to help make a successful festival. Email the committee for more info.
June 1, 7:30pm	Friends of Folk Board Meeting	W.T. Smithers, State St. Dover	All are welcome to observe.
June 5, 7pm	John McCutcheon w/ Ollabelle	Upper Merion Under the Stars Concert Series, King of Prussia, PA	\$10.00 per person, ages 16 and under, and ages 62+ are FREE. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. No Smoking anywhere in the park.
June 8	Christine Havrilla	White Clay Creek State Park, Newark	425 Wedgewood Road Newark, DE 368.6560 (solo). Just 4 days after new CD release
June 11, 1pm	Friends of Folk Celtic Session	W.T. Smithers, State St. Dover	All are welcome - bring an instrument or just your ears. Call (302) 465-0805 for more info
June 11, 7:30pm	Friends of Folk Coffeeshouse	The Underground, Wesley College	Greg Shrader Songwriter Circle, hosted by Deloy Moore. Featured Songwriters are: Tad Jones, Greg Ellisworth, Michael Miller, Larissa Moore, and Nik Everett.
June 12, 3pm	Cliff Eberhardt w/ Nik Everett opening	Cooldog Concert Series, Kenton, DE	Cliff is a songwriter's songwriter, and a dynamic performer. Nik is a Delaware native who easily moves from ballads to old-time rock. RSVP houseconcerts@cooldog.com
June 18, 1pm	Bruce Anthony	A Tuscan BBQ, Alapocus, 132 School Road, Wilmington, DE 19803	Pres. by Film Brothers of Wilm., DE, w/ chef Dan Butler of Toscana Catering, silent auction, jazz guitarist Bruce Anthony. Benefit for school children grades 1-6 in displaced persons camps in West Darfur, Sudan.

Friends of Folk Membership

Delaware Friends of Folk is supported by you, the members and made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware. If you haven't already, join up! Memberships and gift certificates for memberships are also available. (For those friends of yours that just can't make a commitment.) Don't miss out on the fun and excitement of a great organization. Show your support and keep good music and entertainment happening.

First Name _____ Last name _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Membership category: Family (\$15) ___ Individual (\$10) ___

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