

Open Ears Concerts *March 2009*



A great time was had by all in February when The Therapy Sisters and Las Gabachachas entertained us with a wide variety of intelligent, funny, serious, sad, happy, satirical, and danceable songs. A special guest appearance of former Sister Marilyn Rucker on piano made it even more memorable, and a nice donation was made to Latinitas.

This **Friday, March 6**, don't miss **David Roth**. Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, & Mary fame) says about him (www.davidrothmusic.com): *"A powerful new singer-songwriter has reached our hearts. With voices like David's still singing, there's a certainty that the candle will remain lit, the hope reasserted, and the dream still sung."* For over two decades, David Roth has been writing, singing, and teaching music, reaching and inspiring a multitude of people. Landslide top vote-getter at the Falcon Ridge (New York) Folk Festival's Most-Wanted competition (1996) and NAIRD Indie nominee (singer-songwriter album of the year; 1994) for *Digging Through My Closet*, he has gained national attention for his unique songs, moving stories, and powerful singing and subject matter. All the Therapy Sisters said they would be back to see him, so you know he's got to be good. David Shehane (www.myspace.com/davidshehane), an up-and-coming singer-songwriter from Austin opens the show at **7:30 PM**.



According to Wikipedia, as of the late 1990's, Tom Lehrer had performed only 109 shows and written 37 songs over 20 years. Nevertheless he developed a significant following in the U.S. and abroad and his satirical and topical songs influenced numerous musicians and songwriters who followed him. Some of those devotees will gather in honor of Mr. Lehrer's birthday to perform their favorites of his songs. Some of the confirmed artists are **Marilyn Rucker, Jean Synodinos, Jan Seides, The Therapy Sisters, and Gary Feist**. The **Tom Lehrer Hoot Night** will start at **7:00 PM Saturday April 25**, and won't end until all either have busted a gut laughing or have successfully sung the periodical chart of elements.

Our May show will be slightly delayed so that, on **Saturday June 6**, we can host the acoustic duo **Jennings and Keller** (<http://www.jenningsandkeller.com>). They will be in town for the Kerrville Folk Festival and then will come by our place before continuing their tour to points west. Based out of Miami, Florida, they bring a wealth of experience to their collaboration, from the Broadway musicals of New York to the honky tonks of West Texas. Their music is called "Fusion Folk Americana" - a blend of many different elements that comes from their vast and wide-ranging musical backgrounds. With the release of their debut CD, *Susan's House*, Jennings and Keller are quickly gaining recognition throughout the country. In 2007 alone, they were finalists in five songwriting contests across the nation: South Florida Folk Fest, Suwanee SpringFest, Susquehanna, SolarFest, and Falcon Ridge Folk.





Saturday June 13 will be slightly different from our usual shows. In honor of their completing another year of school, local rockers The Authors (www.myspace.com/theauthorsband) will headline the **School's Out for Summer** party for the youth in our community. The youth group at St. Andrew's will help plan, organize, and promote the event, which will be geared toward those in the 12-18 age range (although all will be welcome). More details will follow as they become known.

We will take a break during July and start up again in **August** with the **Fourth Annual St. Andrew's Variety Show** on August 22. Stay tuned for more details.

Open Ears Concerts is a monthly concert series at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Wells Branch (north Austin, Texas). Our goal is to present a variety of musical performances in a family-friendly, peaceful, listener-oriented environment. All shows benefit a worthy cause, which is usually selected by the performers. Unless otherwise stated, shows start at 7:00 PM and admission is \$10 suggested donation (at the door for now – hopefully we'll be able to sell tickets on the web site in the near future). Admission includes free coffee, snacks, and on-site professional child care. If you plan to take advantage of the child care, we would appreciate an RSVP by leaving a message on our website (www.staopen.com/contact.php). You can also email me – Matt Hiland – at mhiland@mhiland.net.

We are starting to plan next season, so if you are interested in performing at Open Ears, know of someone you would like to see perform, or have any feedback on how to improve our events, please contact us as listed above.

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