

The Shanachie to host Songwriters' Open Stage

By **Walter Ault**
Correspondent

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What will take place is what is referred to as Open Stage Night, with singer/songwriters from all over the Delaware Valley performing original works.

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absorbed by the music field. For instance, they conduct occasional workshops in the studio, offering potential songwriters instruction, guidance and encouragement.

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Naturally, Denzien and Lee spend much time in the studio recording music, their own as well as that of other musical artists. "We just finished a CD for Bob Mecklenberg, from Princeton," said Denzien,

"who has been in the folk music scene for a long time and is well respected in the area songwriting community."

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Slot-1, "Patiently Waits," which they co-wrote. Both artists do



Above right are Rick Denzien and Debra Lee, sponsors of the Open Stage, singing together as the Lyra Project. Above is Sherri Mullen of Harrisburg, a co-coordinator, along with Debra Lee, of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of NSAI. Below right (L to R) are NSAI member songwriters Arlon Bennett, of Princeton, N.J., Sherri Mullen of Harrisburg, and Jim Carolan of Bethlehem.

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And While Lee doesn't do her solo act much anymore, she does spend time teaching music to others. In addition, she is a coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Nashville Songwriters Association, which is also sponsoring the local Open Stage Night.

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"And Shanachie is the perfect venue for an event like this," Denzien said. "The atmosphere is just right and the food is great."

Songwriters of every type will perform at the Shanachie,

including the Lyra Project, which has been in existence for three years now and plays primarily what Denzien said is "pop rock," which he described as a kind of "softer rock, with songs sung with evocative harmonies."

"There will be hobbyists [people who write songs just for fun] as well as professional writers," said Lee. "Songwriters look forward to events of this nature because it is a great way not only of getting input, but also a good way of developing your craft, no matter how much experience you have."

MUSIC

IF YOU GO

The Songwriters' Open Stage
will take place at the Shanachie Irish Pub & Restaurant, 111 E. Butler Ave., Ambler, PA 19002, Sunday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. Admission is free. Info: 215-643-1313, 215-283-4887 or www.slot-1.com.

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01/23/2008

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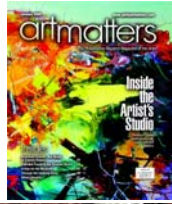
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Songwriter Karen Gross opens New Hope Winter Fest

Karen Gross has been a favorite Bucks County daughter for a long time, and has raised her profile in Philadelphia as well. In 2001, her early shows, often produced by this writer, were intimate affairs full of songwriter, heartfelt emotion. Now Gross is able to do complete shows with more charisma, attention to detail and experience. A journalist in her own right, it is best when she tells the story.

[Full Story](#)

TICKET TO DINING: Max & David's - Elkins Park's sparkling new international kosher restaurant

For a restaurant that's currently open to the public only 20 hours a week, Max & David's International Kosher Cuisine has already generated a considerable positive buzz - all of it warranted.

[Full Story](#)



Max & David's Assistant General Manager Jaime Katz, Executive Chef Jared Cohen and co-owner Steven Katz. Photo by Eve M. Quatrone.

FountainSide celebrates 10 years with a splash

With the proliferation of chain restaurants sprouting like mushrooms in shiny new strip malls practically every week, how does an Old-World, stand-alone restaurant survive for as long as 10 years? If you ask Franco Federico, the dashing chef-owner of Horsham's FountainSide Seafood & Grill, it's really quite simple.

[Full Story](#)



Cappesante Ariana, sautéed shrimp and scallops with artichoke hearts and fresh diced tomatoes in a brandy Marsala sauce, topped with mozzarella and served in a pastry box.

Marc Cohn brings his second lease on life to the Keswick



Grammy Award-winning singer Marc Cohn comes to the Keswick Theatre Jan. 25 with a new CD and a new lease on life. Photo by

It's been nearly a decade since Marc Cohn released an album. He blames it on a bad case of writer's block. Writer's block can be like the hiccups or the flu. It can stick around and linger like an unwanted distant relative or sometimes something extreme has to happen to shock it out of your system.

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Bill Bernstein.



TICKET TO DINING: La Pergola - the 'arbor' is still growing strong after 18 years!



An arbor thrives in Jenkintown. The funny thing is that this warm and inviting arbor is located in the midst of some very appealing shops and eateries - including West Avenue Grille and Joshua's - along that pulsating block of West Avenue just off its busy intersection with Old York Road.

[Full Story](#)

Pictured here is an array of goodies from La Pergola - clockwise, from lower left: Mediterranean Trilogy, Schnitzel and two plates of rice pilaf with puréed vegetables of the day. Photo by Eve M. Quattrone.

International performer Bet Williams finally comes home!

Bet Williams is one of those songwriters who has gotten international recognition, has stayed independent and still makes things seem effortless. With poetry, musicals and a military childhood in her background, she accomplishes automatically what other songwriters couldn't get right with a year of rehearsal. Williams will debut some new material in the region that she considers home.

[Full Story](#)



Internationally renowned singer Bet Williams, fresh from a long tour of Europe — she is seen here performing in Hamburg, Germany — will entertain her home fans at Chaplin's this Saturday night.

Village Players celebrate 60 years with 'Play On!'

Everything is coming up roses for the Village Players of Hatboro lately. Attendance was very good for all four of the community theater company's productions last season. In addition, season ticket sales have been steadily increasing for the last few years and are now at a most satisfactory level.

[Full Story](#)



The cast of "Play On!" at the Village Players of Hatboro: (standing, from left) Erin Ryan, Jeff Cronin, Mike Powell, Andrew Ely, Laura Janos, Jenna Strusowski and Ginny Pickles and (seated from left) Danielle DiProsperis, Clarissa Thurman & Kathy Harmer.

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Here are Rick Denzien and Debra Lee, sponsors of the Open Stage, singing together as the Lyra Project.

Local theatrical talent lights up 'The Fantasticks'



The production of the musical "The Fantasticks," which opened at the Kimmel Center on Jan. 10, is an onstage reunion of sorts for the show's director, Tony Braithwaite.

[Full Story](#)

At left are Eileen Cella (who plays Luisa), Joe Mallon (the Narrator/El Gallo) and Owen Pelesh (Matt), all starring in the Cadillac Broadway series production of "The Fantasticks," now playing at the Kimmel Center.

Get set for a hot evening in Sellersville! Marshall Crenshaw: Multitalented Artist, Humble Music Fan



If you know someone who fancies himself or herself a music lover or historian, get him or her to the Sellersville Theater on Jan. 18 to see Marshall Crenshaw. If you doubt that Crenshaw is a lifelong music fan as well as a talented musician, check out these credentials:

[Full Story](#)

Music historian, author, actor, songwriter par excellence and performer, Marshall Crenshaw brings his considerable talent to the Sellersville Theater 1894 for a concert Jan. 18.

'Wine in Winter' benefit offers food for body & spirit

This year, Groundhog Day may begin with the sighting of a shadow, but it will end with the sipping of shiraz and chardonnay.

[Full Story](#)



Above are siblings, Marlene Zakes and Joe McFadden, co-owners and chefs at Fort Washington's Zakes Cakes & Café, presenting some of their popular pastries.

Mount Airy's Susan Wilder stars in PTC's provocative 'M. Butterfly'

For Susan Wilder, a California transplant who now happily resides in Mount Airy, the decision was an easy one.

[Full Story](#)



Mount Airy's Susan Wilder plays Helga, the wife of the diplomat who leaves her after he falls in love with the mysterious Butterfly in the Philadelphia Theatre Company's production of "M. Butterfly."

Sellersville Theater to host Tommy Castro and a hot blues revue

After performing onstage with legends B.B. King and Carlos Santana, Tommy Castro is bringing a collaborative blues show to the Sellersville Theater 1894 (ST94).

[Full Story](#)

Viola gets to shine in new-works concert at Woodmere

The viola has long been the poor, overlooked stepsister of the string family, neither as soaring and sexy as the violin nor as rich-toned and somber as the cello. And although some great composers loved its sandy middle range - Mozart played viola when performing string quartets among friends, and wrote some great music for it - the instrument did not get a substantial solo repertoire of its own until the 20th century.

[Full Story](#)



At left is violist Brett Deubner, who will solo at the "4 Premieres" concert at Woodmere Art Museum this Saturday.

Birdsboro's Valerie Nicole is really making the rounds: From open mics to Down Under to Steel City Sessions



As an independent musician in the early stages of your career, you do anything you can to make a name for yourself and to get your music heard.

That means playing a fair share of open mic nights as well as occasionally performing in places that are less than ideal.

[Full Story](#)

Birdsboro's favorite daughter, Valerie Nicole, has sung at open mic nights throughout the region, has had one of her songs recorded on a record label in Australia and is all set to entertain at Steel City Sessions on Jan. 16. Photo by Craig Ostroff.

Violinist Joanna Frankel directs Family Access Concert at KI

When she was 2 years old, Joanna Frankel's parents took her to a Philadelphia Orchestra children's concert. Immediately afterward, she told them, "I want a violin."

[Full Story](#)

'Cloverfield' - a classic monster movie for our times

'Cloverfield' is a monster movie. It is not "Chinatown," "Citizen Kane" or "Pulp Fiction." It is a monster movie, and yet, the film is brilliant and timely in its approach. It presents itself as found footage that the government does not want you to see. It is a time capsule for our generation, the My Space and YouTube generation, a generation that feels the need to whip out cell phones and digital cameras at a moment's notice.

[Full Story](#)



On a Different Note: Coming Together: The Triumph of Sir Paul

One of the questions that continually pops up in my e-mail is what was the best concert I've ever seen. I get the usual "what are my 10 favorite songs?" and "what are my 10 favorite albums?" quizzes as well, but the best-concert question easily outdistances them all.

[Full Story](#)

'There Will Be Blood' sees the light of Day-Lewis' classic performance

The beginning of "There Will Be Blood" prepares us for what is to follow. A dirty, bedraggled prospector digs for silver in a deep and narrow hole out in the middle of nowhere. The light is minimal and metallic blue, coming through a hole far above. The only sign of fire is the sparks that fly from the prospector's pick as he repeatedly strikes the cavernous stone before him.

[Full Story](#)

'Persepolis' - a highly animated tale of coming of age in the Middle East

During a time of war, the government and the media tell stories the way they want you to hear them. It is only later, when the stories of the innocent people involved begin to come out, that we fully begin to understand what actually occurred.

[Full Story](#)

ON A DIFFERENT NOTE: Summer Dreams & Holiday Swoons

Time is such a funny thing. The buildup for the holidays seems to go on for so long and then the actual event feels like it's over in a few hours.

Now we're in the opening days of 2008 and there's already talk of summer tours being booked. The only major act that's a lock at this point - who doesn't like to talk summer in January? - is Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, who are booking stadiums for May and June. The other act supposedly tying up stadium dates is ... well, faithful readers of Ticket already know that story.

[Full Story](#)

Angel Band to take flight at Chaplin's, later at Keswick

If you have any familiarity with the local music scene, there's a strong chance you've seen the Angel Band in some form or another.

[Full Story](#)

Frank-ly Speaking: Quietly spectacular or spectacularly quiet?

Sometimes it's hard to decide which I enjoy more - the quietly spectacular growth of the twins or the spectacularly quiet moments we share when no one else is there.

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Frank-ly Speaking 1.23.08 (Fluff Journalism)/H3>

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