



# FOLK CALENDAR

Volume 11, Issue 3

Celebrating 25 Years Of Folk Music: 1982-2007

March 2007

## The Near Misses: March 9th Talented Singer/Songwriters

Our March 9<sup>th</sup> Gathering concert will feature the stunning harmonies and superbly crafted songs of **The Near Misses** in an intimate concert setting. Join us at 7:30 PM in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building on the Central CPCC Campus at 1220 Elizabeth Avenue in Charlotte.

CFS Gatherings are family-friendly and free, although donations are appreci-

ated. Enjoy a short refreshment break after the concert and stay on for a jam session or song circle. Free parking is available in the Central Piedmont Community College Staff Deck off Fourth Street, between Independence Boulevard and Kings Drive. Questions? Call 704-563-7080.

**The Near Misses** feature some of North Carolina's finest vocal talent. They perform an eclectic blend of originals, drawing upon American roots, rock, pop, contemporary folk, country, and jazz influences. Each woman is a gifted songwriter and musician in her own right and their songs feature unforgettable melodies made complete by layers of gorgeous harmony. Combining their talents as **The Misses**, Shana Blake, Reeve Coobs, Etta Lea, and Eva Gael, cre-

ate a synergy well appreciated by their audiences.

**The Near Misses** are currently touring throughout the Southeast while frequently returning to



**The Near Misses**

Charlotte to work on their first full-length studio recording. They are the recent recipients of the "Best

Band Readers' Choice Award" for the 2006 **Creative Loafing** "Best of Charlotte: International Edition." **The Misses** were also the recipients of the "Best New band Award" in the Arts & Entertainment category of the 2005 **Creative Loafing** Readers' Choice Awards. Sample performances by The Near Misses on their website, [www.queencitymusic.com/nearmisses/](http://www.queencitymusic.com/nearmisses/).

Shana Blake is a native Charlottean and the granddaughter of long-time CFS members Chester and Dot Lorenz. She began her musical career singing in church. She continues the tradition of singing spiritual music today at Church of the Beloved. In addition to church music, Shana developed a love for opera, Broadway, and traditional and world music.

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## Applaud the Next Generation: Rising Appalachia House Concert March 17th

The Charlotte Folk Society invites you to enjoy the music of the innovative young band **Rising Appalachia** in the intimate setting of a house concert. They wowed the January '06 Tosco Music Party audience with their take on traditional Appalachian tunes and songs. If you know any young folks that you'd like to turn on to traditional music, hearing **Rising Appalachia** would be the perfect way to do so!

Please join us on Saturday, March 17, at 7:30 PM at the home of Salem Macknee and Lee Howard, 14930 Hough Road, in Charlotte. Admission is \$10 for Folk Society members; \$12 for others. **Reservations are required; space is limited.** Call Salem Macknee at 704-573-0864 to save your spot and to get directions.

Sisters Leah and Chloe Smith grew up in the bosom of the Southern Appalachian music renaissance. Born to a fiddling mother and a folk-sculptor father, they were raised with old-time mountain melodies as their lullabies. With influences that include everything from urban jazz and hip hop to roots music from around the world, they have created a style that is truly their own. Their

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(The Near Misses, continued from page 1.)

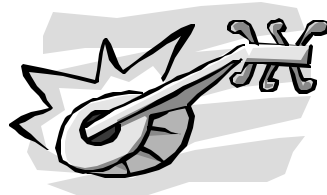
She has sung at many community events such as rallies, benefits, and basketball games. With her eclectic musical background, she became one of the first members of the popular Tosco Music Party Singalong Choir. For several years prior to the formation of **The Misses**, she performed with the band **Tesser**. Shana was the 2001 **Creative Loafing's** Critics' Choice for Best Female Vocalist and her vocal style has been compared to that of Bonnie Raitt and Faith Hill.

Reeve Coobs, a native of Indian Trail, began performing on stage at the age of ten. During high school, she was in a pop-rock band, a member of a touring show choir, and a student of classical music. Reeve's father, luthier Jack Coobs, built a specially designed acoustic guitar for her sixteenth birthday. Three months after receiving the guitar, she was playing and writing songs for the first time. Reeve attended college on a voice scholarship. In her sophomore year, she relocated to Charlotte to devote more time to songwriting and performing at such venues as The Evening Muse and The Pewter Rose. Reeve is presently working on completing her first CD. In addition to performing with **The Misses**, she's a member of the Tosco Music Party Singalong Choir and is part of a folk trio with David Holtzclaw and Scott Wagstaff.

Sisters Etta Lea and Eva Gael grew up in rural Old Church, Virginia. They shared a "southern Methodist choir-girl upbringing" and were exposed by their mother to '70s country radio and by their dad and uncles to the live bluegrass they played at family gatherings.

Etta Lea began setting her poems to music as a teenager and took up playing the guitar in college. After graduation, Lea moved to the Charlotte area and began singing background vocals in Eva Gael's southern rock cover band. She succeeded her sister as lead singer and went on to front and write for several other area bands. In 2000, Lea was voted the "Best Female Vocalist" by **Creative Loafing**. These days, Etta Lea creates and performs music featuring lush vocals with acoustic and electric guitars. Lea is the founder of QueenCityMusic.com, a promotion and portal site for Charlotte bands that brings artists and audiences together, as well as providing support and information to musicians. She also books bands for The Evening Muse and is a member of the Tosco Music Party Singalong Choir.

Eva Gael began singing as a toddler and has been singing ever since. She began playing guitar as a young adult and her early songs immediately established her as a force to be reckoned with. In 1992 she moved from her hometown to Charlotte and soon began hooking up with area musicians for jam sessions and gigs. After a brief stint in the cover band with Etta Lea, Eva returned to performing her original material in the folk-rock tradition as a solo act. Her powerful vocals and acoustic guitar deliver an appealing blend of catchy hooks and intense lyrics. Eva was a finalist in the Charlotte Lilith Fair competition in 1999. She has performed at Living Art, The Double Door, The Evening Muse, the Tosco Music Party, and the NoDa Gallery Crawls, and has taken part in the Women of Folk Rock Showcase.



## CFS Old Time Acoustic Jam March 11th



**Tom Walsh & George Johnson fiddling in the barn at the Charlotte Museum of History**

The Charlotte Folk Society hosts a monthly open Old Time Acoustic Music Jam at the Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive in Charlotte. Generally, the jam takes place on second Sundays from 2 to 4 PM. Please mark your calendars for the next sessions: **March 11th, April 15th, May 13th, and June 10th**. The format allows for each musician to take a turn sharing or leading a song or tune. Admission to the museum is free on Sundays. Visit [www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org) for directions.

For more than a year, Ruth Helms has coordinated this jam session. Due to family obligations, she has had to step down. We thank her for representing the Folk Society so well and for making folks feel comfortable.

We welcome Hunter Marshall as the new jam coordinator. (Thank you, Hunter!) If you have questions, please contact him at 704-296-5555.