

Young Elizabeth LaPrelle Sings Traditional Ballads With Old Soul May 12th

The Charlotte Folk Society is pleased to feature traditional ballad singer Elizabeth LaPrelle at our May 12th Gathering concert. The hour-long concert begins at 7:30 PM in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building, 1220 Elizabeth Avenue, on the Central CPCC Campus. Gatherings are free and open to the public. Donations, which entirely benefit performers, are appreciated. Free parking is available in the CPCC Staff Parking Deck, accessed off Fourth Street, between Independence Boulevard and Kings Drive.



Elizabeth LaPrelle

Sheila Kay Adams, a seventh-generation ballad singer from Madison County, North Carolina describes Elizabeth LaPrelle's singing: "Anyone can learn the old ballads. There are numerous collections in libraries and books that are available on-line. But, Elizabeth is interested in the feel, the sound, the ornamentation of these songs. She is, in my opinion, one of maybe a handful of young singers able to capture the rhythm, the intensity, the breaks and sighs, that make this style of singing authentic. The only

problem I have while listening to Elizabeth is that I'm always listening through tears. She reminds me so much of my older relatives – the same profound feeling for the ballad, yet with such a clear voice."

Elizabeth LaPrelle has been performing Appalachian ballads and old-time songs and winning prizes for her singing

at fiddlers' conventions since she was eleven. Her magnificent voice, respect for the songs, and her authentic mountain sound and style brought her to the attention of first Ginny Hawker and then Sheila Kay Adams. At the age of sixteen, Elizabeth was chosen by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress as the first recipient of an award from the Henry Reed Fund for Folk Artists. In April 2005 Elizabeth performed on Garrison Keillor's **A Prairie Home Companion** NPR radio show, broadcast from Norfolk, Virginia. Elizabeth recorded seventeen classic ballads on a CD entitled **Rain and Snow**,

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Monthly Folk Society Jam Sessions

CFS hosts jam sessions twice each month. The first sessions follow the Gathering concert on the second Friday of each month in the Sloan-Morgan Building on the Central CPCC Campus. Players may choose between a fast jam and a slow jam. The slow jam, led by Krista Murphy and John Divine, is designed to offer novice musicians or those just picking up new instruments the opportunity to learn new songs and to develop confidence in a comfortable group setting.

The Folk Society also hosts an open Acoustic Old Time Music Jam at the Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive in Charlotte. Generally, the jam takes place on the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 PM **The next session will take place on May 14, 2006.** Some months, the museum's events may necessitate our meeting to another Sunday. Please mark your calendars for future dates: **June 18th, July 9th, August 13th, and September 3rd.**

Museum admission is free on Sundays and museum hours are 1-5 PM. The jam is free and open to the public. Contact Ruth Helms, Jam Coordinator, at 704-537-1055 if you're interested in joining the session or have questions. This is proving to be a popular event. Visit www.charlottemuseum.org for directions.

(Elizabeth LaPrelle, continued from page 1.)

released on the Old 97 Wreckords label. Visit www.old97wreckords.com/elizabeth-laprelle/about.htm to sample Elizabeth's singing.

Raised in Rural Retreat, Virginia, Elizabeth learned to sing from family and friends, who taught her various singing styles, exposed her to recordings of ballads and old-time music, and encouraged her to sing their own favorite folk music. Fiddlers' conventions gave her a chance to perform for mountain audiences who encouraged her interest in the traditional music of her region. In 2005, she took first place in the Folk Song Competition and received the Most Promising Talent Award at the prestigious Mt. Airy Fiddler's Convention. Now eighteen, Elizabeth is a freshman at the College of William and Mary, where she is a member of the Appalachian Music Ensemble.

Elizabeth will be accompanied by Sandy LaPrelle, her mother, and Jon Newlin and Amy Davis, her uncle and aunt, who are also members of the **Hushpuppies**, an old-time string band based in the North Carolina Triad. Jon Newlin and Amy Davis played instrumental back-up and Sandy LaPrelle performed back-up vocals for Elizabeth on **Rain and Snow**.

Jon Newlin (fiddle and guitar) grew up in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, but spent his summers at camp in Rural Retreat, Virginia. Field-trips to fiddlers' conventions in southwest Virginia were a staple activity for campers. Sitting in the bleachers in front of the stage, Jon soaked the music up like a sponge. After a brief adolescent stint with bagpipes, Jon began playing guitar, mandolin, and finally the fiddle. A long-time resident of the North Carolina Triangle, Jon has performed and recorded with a number of groups including **The Landfill Ramblers**, **The Solstice Assem-**

bly, **New Hope Harmony** and **The Maudlin Brothers**.

Amy Davis (banjo and guitar) grew up in Millerton, New York. She spent considerable time in the Northeast playing and recording with the **Little City String Band** and its Cajun incarnation, **The Swampcats**, and also the Cajun band **Dirty Rice**. In 1992 she moved to North Carolina to study Folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As a folklorist, Amy has done fieldwork in both western and eastern Kentucky, Harkers Island, in North Carolina, and worked on the Blue Ridge Heritage Initiative for the North Carolina Arts Council. While in Kentucky, she recorded a cassette with Kentucky old-time fiddler Herstel Flynn. Amy has worked at the Southern Folklife Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill and she presently is an elementary school music teacher in Durham's public schools.

Sandy Newlin LaPrelle (vocals) remembers first hearing folk songs from her parents, who loved all kinds of music, sang in community choruses, listened to folk artists Burl Ives and Susan Reed, and sang to Sandy and Jon and their two sisters. They knew a lot of rounds and always sang in the car. Sandy taught herself enough guitar to play along while she sang her favorite songs. She later taught her brother Jon to play, as well. Her first trip to a fiddler's convention "hooked her." In the late '80s she sang and recorded with the **Solstice Assembly** in Chapel Hill. Sandy has sung in several community choruses in various places she's lived and she once sang the part of the Sorceress in Henry Purcell's **Dido and Aeneas**. However, she claims traditional music as her first love.

At the conclusion of the concert, we'll take a refreshment break with Carol Sawyer's fabulous brownies. Then we'll break into slow and fast jams and a song circle. You are welcome to participate or simply listen.

Historic Rosedale Hosts 1830s Arts Fair

Where in Charlotte might you shop for the best in North Carolina pottery, Charleston sweet grass baskets, jewelry, and fiber arts? On Saturday, May 13, from 11 AM to 4 PM, you'll find all of these artisan crafts at Historic Rosedale Plantation, 3427 North Tryon Street. As well, "The Art of Craft: An 1830s Arts Fair" will include demonstrations, a live auction, and old-time music by Terry Dalton and Friends. Crafts, pony rides, and other activities will delight children. Barbecue lunch and beverages will be available on site.

Whether contemporary or traditional, the pottery will come from some of the finest makers in the state: Bulldog Pottery, Leftwich Pottery, Jugtown Pottery, Why-not Pottery, New Salem Pottery, Johnston and Gentithes Art Pottery, and potters Hat Thompson, Matt Jones, Crystal King, Anna and Terry King, Jennie Loretta Keatts, Donna Craven, Daniel Johnston, and Phil Morgan. This festival will also feature work by basket weavers Kisha Rawlinson and Gail McKinley, quilt maker Janice Maddox, and printmaker Jay Pfeil.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students ages three to eighteen. Children two years and younger are free. Family passes are available for \$25. Gates open for general admission at 11 AM and the fair continues until 4 PM, rain or shine. For more details, visit www.historicrosedale.org or call 704-335-0384.