

Carolina Favorite Michael Reno Harrell Shares Songs and Stories January 13th

We are privileged to showcase the talents of Michael Reno Harrell at our January 13th Gathering. His hour-long concert begins at 7:30 PM in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building, 1220 Elizabeth Avenue, on the main CPCC campus. Gatherings are free and open to the public; donations are always appreciated.

"Michael Reno Harrell is one of those natural born Southern storytellers filled with wit, charm and surprises. Whether the story is in song or narrative, Michael will draw you in and entertain you, all the while making you feel right at home." - **David Holt**

One of the most popular singer/songwriters from the Charlotte area, Michael has been voted Best Local Songwriter by readers of **Creative Loafing**, made WNCW Radio's Best 100 CDs of 2003 list, and won the Chris Austin Songwriting Competition at MerleFest in the gospel category in 2002. If you listen to WNCW or WSGE radio, you've almost certainly heard his songs, with **Southern Suggestions** having become a classic in our area. He first broke the top twenty on the Gavin Americana



Michael Reno Harrell

charts on the Charlotte-area compilation **Known on the Underground**, which rose to sixteenth place; his CD **Southern Son** went to eleventh place and stayed on the charts for five months.

Michael has seven CDs to his credit and another about to be released. His 2003 two-CD recording, **Grit and Wit**, showcases some his most amusing and poignant tales. **Hey Y'All**, a 2005 DVD, captures a live concert of some of Michael's most requested

stories and songs professionally recorded at Cleveland Community College.

Michael was born in East Tennessee and has roots in western North Carolina. With mountain roots running many generations deep, it's not hard to see where much of Michael's love for storytelling arises. He began playing at folk/bluegrass festivals and fiddlers' conventions in the 1960s and was strongly influenced by the many strains of southern and southwestern music, including traditional singers like Clarence Ashley and Bascom Lamar

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Alan Jabbour & Ken Perlman Tour Southeast

By Tom Watts

Lovers of traditional music will be happy to hear that Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman are performing **and** offering a workshop as they come through Charlotte on their winter tour of the Southeast. Masters individually of fiddle and banjo, Jabbour and Perlman are together a tremendously powerful harmonic duo. A promise: if you love Appalachian traditional songs and tunes, you'll be impressed; if you don't know much about this style of music, you'll be a fan after hearing these masters of their instruments and style perform. The interaction of fiddle and banjo is nothing short of extraordinary, with Alan's lyrical fiddling style complimented and offset by Ken's inspired approach to clawhammer banjo, not to mention the numerous anecdotes that will provide historical context for the tunes.

The Cook Shack, a warm and intimate venue in Union Grove, North Carolina, will present Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman in concert on Sunday, January 22, at 3 PM. Ticket cost is \$10. Seating is limited to about 45; reservations are required. To hold your spot, either phone or e-mail Tom and Gail Watts at 704-528-5060 or cookshackshows@adelphia.net. Be sure to write "Cook Shack Shows" in the subject line, if you e-mail them.

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Lunsford. He worked as a songwriter in Nashville for a while, but, despite some significant success, ultimately decided that route was not for him. His songs have been described as "Appalachian grit and wit" but, as his writing shows, Michael's awareness is much broader than the bounds of his boyhood home or even the Southern experience. Having toured throughout the British Isles and much of Europe, as well as most of the USA, the songs he writes reflect an insight into people's experiences that catch the ear like an old friend's voice. Visit www.michaelreno.com or www.folksociety.org to sample Michael's stories and songs.

Come join us for an hour that will feel like going home, as we listen to Michael's front-porch stories and songs! A short refreshment break after the concert will be followed by a song circle and a jam session. Free parking is available in the Staff Parking Deck accessed off Fourth Street, between Independence Boulevard and Kings Drive, and directly behind the Sloan-Morgan Building. For more information, contact Harry Taylor at 704-366-1869.

CFS Monthly Old Time Jam Session

CFS hosts an open Acoustic Old Time Music Jam the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 PM at the Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive. **The next session will take place on January 8, 2006.** Admission is free on Sundays and museum hours are 1-5 PM. The jam is free and open to the public. Contact Ruth Helms at 704-537-1055 if you're interested in joining the session.

Tom Eure CD Release Concert

We are pleased to announce that Folk Society member Tom Eure celebrates the release of his fourth solo CD, **Back Woods**, this Saturday, January 7, at 8 PM at The Evening Muse; admission is \$5. Performing with Tom will be Dale Meyer (guitar) of Michael Reno Harrell's **No Angels Band** and Ken Cotner (bass) from **The Turnstiles**.



Troubadour Tom Eure

Back Woods, described as "grounded in roots and honesty", contains fifteen new songs written by seasoned performer Tom Eure. "Americana" aptly describes the blend of bluegrass, folk rock, and country influences. As well as singing, Tom plays acoustic guitar, mandolin, fiddle, and clawhammer banjo on the recording. Tom's engineer and co-producer, Dale Meyer, adds dobro, pedal steel, bass, and electric guitar twang. Visit www.tomeure.com to listen to sound clips from **Back Woods**; purchase it online at www.cdbaby.com/cd/eure. Come out Saturday to celebrate with Tom!

Next Tosco Music Party January 14th

The first Tosco Music Party of 2006 is coming up on Saturday, January 14, 7-11 PM, in the McGlohon Theater at Spirit Square, 345 North College Street, in downtown Charlotte. Tosco Music Parties showcase an eclectic blend of styles of acoustic music. Founder and Folk Society member, John Tosco always lines up a variety of excellent talent.

Of special interest, Vika Shirobokova, the sixteen-year-old accordionist from Russia who wowed us all at the November Young Talent Showcase, will be among the musicians this month. Vika, also a CFS member, will finish her year at Myers Park High School and return home to St. Petersburg in June. Among those performers joining the international accordion competition winner will be **Southern Junction, Charlotte Children's Choir, Menage**, Bob Malone, David Mead, **Hawaiian Kine, Tarheel Voices**, Phyllis Tannerfrye, **Policy**, and **Rising Appalachia**. Concert-goers can also expect to enjoy several sing-a-longs throughout the evening (words are provided in the program). What makes a Tosco Music Party so special is the community that John Tosco deftly creates between the audience and performers.

Tosco Music Parties consistently sell out. Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65+ years, and \$6 for those under sixteen years. To purchase tickets, call 704-372-1000 or buy them online at www.performingartsctr.org. The Party will continue after 11 PM at The Evening Muse, 3227 North Davidson Street; no admission is charged.