

Open Ears Concerts April 2009

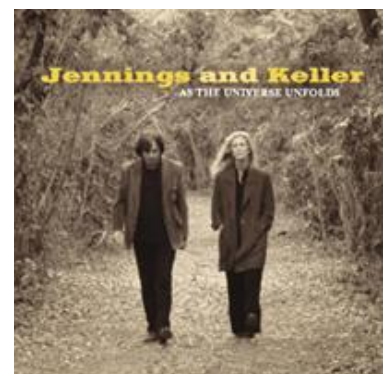


David Roth's many fans around here created lofty expectations for his show on March 6, and he met and exceeded them. He made us laugh, cry, and sing along. He is truly an amazing talent and a genuinely kind person. Two quotes from attendees about his music are very descriptive: "an emotional catheter" and "he gave me permission to feel." Not that his songs are painful and intrusive, but that at least one of them will touch a place in you and extract an emotion without your conscious effort. His lyrics are straightforward and speak openly and honestly about things that we, especially men, in our culture are often discouraged to ignore. Let's hope we can get him to come back again.



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. Jennings & Keller have completed their new CD *As the Universe Unfolds* and it will be available for purchase in May 2009.



Friday June 12 will be a bit different. *Please note this was previously erroneously listed as Saturday June 13. Sorry for my mistake.* In honor of their completing another year of school, Open Ears Concerts presents the **School's Out for Summer** party for the youth in our community. Local indie rockers The Authors (www.myspace.com/theauthorsband) will headline. The Authors have a new self-titled EP available at Waterloo Records and on CD Baby. The St. Andrew's youth group 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). **Admission to this event is free!**

We will take a break during July and start up again with the **Fourth Annual St. Andrew's Variety Show** on **Saturday August 22**. The Variety Show is open to people of all ages and abilities who would like to perform. Past shows have included drama, comedy, dancing, singing, and merriment of all types.

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. 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.

You are receiving this email because either you have requested to be added to the Open Ears Concerts email list, or you have previously been involved with one of the concerts. If you wish to be removed from this list, please reply to this email and indicate so in the subject.