



SONG CIRCLE

Serving Chicago's Folk Music Community
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CD Reviews: From the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's "Most Wanted Artists"

Live, Rachael Davis with Brett Hartenbach

Rachael Davis is an artist of amazing versatility. She's equally at home singing sophisticated standards ("Miss Otis Regrets"), oldies radio staples ("Cupid" and "Every Day"), and classic and contemporary folk and bluegrass ("Shady Grove," "Angel from Montgomery," "Dimming of the Day"). Her voice is an instrument of surprising flexibility, moving effortlessly from the full-throated spiritual wails of "Grandma's Hands" to the soothing, almost childlike vocal treatment of "Cupid." Davis's considerable talents are augmented by the work of the equally gifted Brett Hartenbach, who enlivens arrangements with guitar and mandolin. While the CD's focus is on cover tunes, the few originals – especially "Lela May" and its joyfully catchy chorus – suggest that Rachael Davis has much more to offer. And with influences like the artists covered on this CD, her original work will surely be worth seeking out.

Remember Who I Am, Girlyman

Brooklyn-based trio Girlyman is still a relatively young band – not just in terms of the members' ages, but in that they've only been playing together as a trio since 2002. They're still finding their footing onstage, but in the studio, on their first release, they're as strong and polished as any more seasoned group. *Remember Who I Am* is a record of subtle beauty that reveals more depth with every spin. Standout tracks such as "Postcards from Mexico," "Fall Stories," "Hey Rose," and "Maori" are rich with imagery and angelic harmony. Could any other group take the line, "My God, get away/You smell like fish heads" and make it sound so sweetly poetic? *Girlyman will be at Uncommon Ground on September 5 at 10pm.*

Engine, We're About 9

Rollicking melodies and beautiful three-part harmonies, quirky lyrics full of SAT words, songs from the point of view of inanimate objects – these are the hallmarks of a *We're About 9* CD, and all are present on the Maryland trio's third CD. It's tempting to pigeonhole the three members, with Brian Gundersdorf's clever and imaginative lyrics, Katie Graybeal's ethereal voice, and Pat Klink's quietly powerful musicality. But since the band's inception in 1999, the three members have developed as individuals and as a more cohesive whole, each strengthening their musical talents and thereby strengthening the band itself. *Engine's* many highlights include "Writing Again," a humorously bittersweet tale of overcoming writer's block; "Slow Sliding Funk," a foray into seductively depressing Jonatha Brooke-style pop; "Weight of the Ocean," a joyful

tune about the end of the world; and a haunting a cappella version of Richard Shindell's "Money for Floods."

I first attended the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, held each July in the foothills of the Berkshires, in July 2000, and since then, I (like many others before and since) have made it an annual tradition. It's a weekend of the best in folk music, with all-day performances, workshops and song swaps, family activities, dance, and song circles and jam sessions that go on all night.

This year, the festival celebrated its 15th anniversary, with help from folk luminaries like Tom Paxton, Richard Thompson, Holly Near, and Arlo Guthrie. Other crowd favorites included the gorgeous harmonies of Nerissa and Katryna Nields, exuberant folk-pop duo the Kennedys, hilarious a cappella group Da Vinci's Notebook, blues guitar prodigy David Jacobs-Strain, and Falcon Ridge mainstays like Dar Williams, John Gorka, Lucy Kaplansky, and Greg Brown. Of special note this year was Tracy Grammer, whose "partner in all things," Dave Carter, passed away shortly before the 2002 festival. Last year, musicians united to pay him tribute during what would have been Carter and Grammer's mainstage set; this year, Grammer gave a breathtaking solo performance that moved many in the audience to tears.

Every year, I come home proclaiming that this year's Falcon Ridge was the best ever, and 2003 was no exception. It's been over a month now and I'm still missing that beautiful sense of community, and counting down to next July. But in the meantime, there's a whole year of wonderful music to explore right here in Chicago. For more information on the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, visit www.falconridgefolk.com – and for more information on the folk scene right here, just read on.

Carey Farrell
Editor

SEPTEMBER VENUE LISTINGS

Abbey Pub
3420 W. Grace St.
773-478-4408
abbeypub.com

September 4: The Shipping News, Three Second Kiss, re: rec (9pm, 18+, \$10)
September 5: The Ex, Erase Erratta, Numbers (9pm, 18+, \$12 adv/\$14 door)
September 6: Mermen, Barbeau, Sicbay, The Changes (10pm, \$10)
September 7: Sunday Night Traditional Irish Concert and Session (7:30pm)
September 8: Loraxx, Dead Electric, .22 (8pm, \$10)
September 9: Tom Tom Club, Spookie Daly Pride (9pm, \$15)

September 11: The Bad Plus, Helen Money (9pm, \$17 adv/\$20 door)

September 12: Drive By Truckers, Deke Dickerson and the Ecco-Fonics (10pm, \$15)
September 13: Drive By Truckers with Gaza Strippers (10pm, \$15)
September 14: Sunday Night Traditional Irish Concert and Session (7:30pm)
September 18: Throw Rag, Second Hand Poet, Brother Lowdown, The Saps (9pm, \$6 adv/\$8 door)
September 19: The Fenians (10pm, \$10 adv/\$12 door)

September 20: Cheer Accident (record release), Bobby Conn and the Glass Gypsies (10pm, 18+, \$10)
September 21: Sunday Night Traditional Irish Concert and Session (7:30pm)

September 27: Mates of State, Dehawney Troof, Saturday Looks Good to Me, Victory at Sea (10pm, 18+, \$10 adv/\$12 door)
September 28: Traditional Irish Concert with John Williams and John Doyle (8pm, \$15)

Fitzgeralds
6615 Roosevelt Rd. (Berwyn, IL)
708-788-2118
fitzgeraldsnightclub.com

September 3: Michael Smith with Small Potatoes (8pm, \$10)
September 9: Danu (8:30pm, \$12 adv/\$15 door)
September 10: Chicago Singer Spotlight featuring Stacey Coleman, Barbara Lauderdale, Julie Aymes, Therese Hegler (8pm, \$7)
September 12: Charlie Robison, Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash (9:30pm, \$12)
September 19: Connie Kaldor & Garnet Rogers (6:30pm, \$12 adv/\$15 door), Joe Ely and Joel Guzman with Troy Campbell (10pm, \$15)
September 20: Susan Werner (7:30pm, \$15), Joe Ely and Joel Guzman with Troy (10pm, \$15)

Gunther Murphy's Music Room
1638 W. Belmont
773-472-5139
gunthermurphys.com

September 4: Katie Todd Band (9pm)
September 5: Ode (record release), Winnie (10pm, \$7)
September 10: Mia Doi Todd, The Black Bear Combo (9pm, \$10)
September 12: Drains to Sound, Malarkies, Zero Times Embryo (10pm, \$7)

September 13: Twice Pipes, The Few (10pm, \$6)
September 14: Tim Easton, The Dodge City Getouts (9pm, \$10 adv/\$10 door)
September 15: Michelle Malone and the Low-Down Georgia Revue, David Zollo (9pm, \$10)
September 17: Paper Moon (9pm, \$7)
September 19: Steve Wynn (of Dream Syndicate) and the Miracle 3, with The Court and Spark (10pm, \$10 adv/\$12 door)
September 20: Steve Wynn (of Dream Syndicate) and the Miracle 3, with The Court and Spark (10pm, \$10 adv/\$12 door)
September 25: Chlorine, Missle, Skid Marks (9pm, \$7)
September 26: Matthew, Gold So Red, Favorite Saints (10pm, \$8 adv/\$10 door)
September 27: Tex La Homa, Morning Recordings, Western Automatic, SoLA (10pm, \$7)

Irish American Heritage Center
4626 N. Knox Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
773-282-7035

September 13: The Fureys and Davey Arthur (9:30 pm)

Martyrs
3855 N. Lincoln Ave
773-404-9494
martyrslive.com

September 1: Traditional Irish Music featuring Aidan O'Toole (9:30pm)
September 4: Big C Jamboree, featuring Craig Maki and the Sundodgers (9:30pm)
September 5: Hoyle Brothers, Delafields (10pm, \$7)
September 6: Auktyon (\$30 adv/\$40 door)
September 8: Traditional Irish Music featuring Gan Bua (9:30pm)
September 9: Monte Montgomery, Motion to Fix (8pm, \$15)
September 10: Sandip Burman and Friends (8pm, \$10adv/\$15 door)

September 11: Thomas Pace, Dylan Rice, KB (9pm, \$6)
 September 12: Knee Deep Shag, The Wombats (10pm, \$8)
 September 13: Tim Reynolds, Kaki King (10pm, \$16.50)
 September 15: Traditional Irish Music featuring Kieran O'Hare (9:30pm)
 September 17: Hillbilly Winos, Motion to Fix (8:30pm)
 September 18: Urban Twang, Smokestack, Tiffany Hull (9pm, \$6)
 September 20: Zemog, Los Hombres Perdidos, Beat the Donkey, Chicago Afrobeat Project (9pm, \$10)
 September 21: Twinemen, Lizzie West (9pm, \$12)
 September 22: Traditional Irish Music (9:30pm)
 September 25: Pudder Project, Everett Atkins & the Downslope, Christopher Dale (9pm, \$7)
 September 26: Rock vs. Sponsorship, Frank Orrall of Poi Dog Pondering, and special guests (10pm, \$10 adv/\$12 door)
 September 28: Old No. 8, Pedal Steel Transmission (10pm, \$8)
 September 29: Traditional Irish Music featuring Jim DeWan (9:30pm)

Old Town School of Folk Music
4544 N. Lincoln/909 W. Armitage
773-728-6000

oldtownschool.org

(unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Lincoln Ave. location)

September 3: From Chile With Love: Claudia Perez (8:30pm)
 September 5: First Friday (6:30-11pm)
 September 6: Licks & Tricks Blues Guitar Workshop (1-3pm, \$60)
 September 6: Ramblin' Jack Elliott and Roy Book Binder (7pm, \$20, \$18 members, \$16 seniors and kids)
 September 7: 123 Do Re Mi: Music Theory Made EZ (2-4pm, \$25)
 September 7: Chris Mills and the City That Works (7pm, \$15, \$13 members, \$11 seniors and kids)
 September 10: Juanita Ulloa (8:30pm)

September 13: Harmonica Workshop (3-5pm, \$25)
 September 13: Gram Parsons Tribute (7:30pm, \$10, \$9 members, \$10 seniors and kids)
 September 14: Fingerstyle Blues Duos (2-4pm, \$25)
 September 14: Peter Mulvey and Fruit (7pm, \$18, \$16 members, \$14 seniors and kids)
 September 17: Flamenco Night: Tailer de Compas de Almanjayar (8:30pm)
 September 19: Chicago World Music Festival Concert with Cool Crooners, Ellika Frisell and Solo Cissokho (7:30pm, \$12, \$11 members)
 September 20: Darbouka Workshop (3-4:50pm, \$30)
 September 20: Dance as a 2nd Language Series: The Hindu-Buddhist Diaspora (3:30-5:30pm)
 September 20: Chicago World Music Festival Concert: Afro-Dominican Roots Celebration (7:30pm, \$12, \$11 members)
 September 21: Didgeridoo Workshop (1:30-4:20pm, \$40)
 September 21: Chicago World Music Festival Concert with Duvo and the Juliano Milosavljevic Ensemble (5pm, \$12, \$11 members)
 September 24: Brazilian Choro Novo Night: No Em Pingo D'Agua (8:30pm)
 September 26: Native American Equinox Celebration with Bill Miller and Shki Bmaadzi (8pm, \$20, \$18 members, \$16 seniors and kids)
 September 27: Native American Flute Workshop (3-4:50pm, \$30)
 September 27: Holmes Brothers with Honeyboy Edwards and Rick Sherry (7:30pm, \$22, \$20 members, \$18 seniors and kids)
 September 28: Freddie Green Big Band Rhythm Guitar Workshop (2-4pm, \$20)
 September 28: Chris Smither with Ray Bonneville (\$20, \$18 members, \$16 seniors and kids)

Schubas Tavern
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508

schubas.com

September 6: Anne Heaton and Frank Mirota with Dick Prall and Alison Chesley (7pm, \$12)
September 7: Four Men From Now, featuring Adam Carroll, Beaver Nelson, Jud Newcomb and Michael Fracasso (8pm, \$10 adv/\$12 door)
September 10: Winter Blanket with Rabbit Rabbit and Norfolk and Western (9pm, \$8)
September 12: Steve Poltz with Ellen Rosner (7pm, \$8 adv/\$10 door)
September 13: The California Guitar Trio(7pm, \$12 adv/15 door), Kevin So with Joe Reilly (10pm, \$10)
September 14: John Storms-Rohm (4pm, \$6 kids/\$8 adults)
September 16: Second Annual Hank Fest 2003, celebrating the life and music of Hank Williams (8pm, \$15)
September 18: Addison Groove Project (8pm, 18+, \$8 adv/\$10 door)
September 20: Arts Of Life Benefit, featuring Devil In The Woodpile with Leon Chance & The Longshots and Big Breakfast (1pm)
September 20: Over The Rhine with Steven Delopoulos and Susan Enan (10pm, 21+, \$15)
September 21: Over The Rhine with Steven Delopoulos and Susan Enan (8pm, 18+, \$15)
September 23: Blue October with Guest (9pm, 18+, \$8 adv/\$10 door)
September 24: Edie Carey (record release) with Chris Gilmartin (8pm, \$8)
September 25: Claire Holley with Michael Heaton (9pm, \$8 adv/\$10 door)
September 28: Brown Couch with Robert Skoro (7pm, \$10), Bill Mallonee (record release, 10pm, 18+, \$10)
September 29: Erin McKeown with Andy Stochansky (8pm, 18+, \$10 adv/\$12 door)

Two Way Street Coffee House
1047 Curtiss St (Downers Grove, IL)
630-969-9720
twowaystreet.org

September 5: Ken Burnstein (8:15, \$5)
September 12: Debra Cowan (8:15, \$5)
September 25: Last Thursday teen open mic (7-9:30pm)
September 26: Tom and Chris Kastle (8:15, \$5)

Uncommon Ground
1214 West Grace Street
773-929-3680**uncommonground.com**

September 1: SHURE-sponsored Open Mic (7pm)
September 2: Easy Tiger (8pm)
September 3: Katie Todd (8pm)
September 4: Singer Spotlight Unplugged (7:30pm)
September 5: Lis Harvey (8pm), Christy Snow (9pm), Girlyman (10pm)
September 6: Doc's Kids (8pm), Joel Ackerson (9pm), Chris Gilmartin (10pm)
September 8: SHURE-sponsored Open Mic (7pm)
September 9: Open Mic Storytelling
September 10: Katie Todd
September 11: Ellen Rosner, Andy Andina, Sirens Wild Ride (8pm)
September 12: Eric Nassau (8pm), Andrew Kerr (9pm), Teddy Goldstein (10pm)
September 13: Featherstone (7pm), Dick Prall (8pm), A is Jump (9pm), Al Rose (10pm)
September 14: Arthur Godfrey (7pm), Kristin Shout (8pm)
September 15: SHURE-sponsored Open Mic (7pm)
September 16: Easy Tiger (8pm)
September 17: Katie Todd (8pm)
September 18: Chris Hayes (8pm), Lojo Russo (9pm)
September 19: Matt Hendricks (8pm), Debe Welch (9pm)
September 20: L&J (8pm), Beth Amsel (9pm), Jim Pullman (10pm)
September 21: Chris Walz, Dale Petersohn, Ed Holstein
September 22: SHURE-sponsored Open Mic (7pm)
September 23: Open Mic Storytelling
September 24: Katie Todd

September 25: Lanky (8pm), Rainy Day
Crush (9pm)

September 26: Erich Specht (8pm),
Tommi Zender (9pm), Jeff Vezain
(10pm)

September 27: Kim Fox (8pm), Mark
Watson (9pm), Phil & the Idea (10pm)

September 28: Julie Frost (8pm), Sarah
Pierce (9pm)

September 29: SHURE-sponsored
Open Mic (7pm)

September 30: Easy Tiger (8pm)

Would you like your folk music events listed in the next issue of **Song Circle**? Are you interested in receiving **Song Circle** directly by email? Just write to songcirclechicago@yahoo.com. The deadline for October listings is September 20. Also, be sure to visit **Song Circle** online at <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/songcircle>.
Thank you!