



News Update

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May features a host of singer-songwriters at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, including the 1st annual Rockport Folk Summit

On **Saturday, May 20, at 7 pm**, Rockport Music presents the 1st annual **Rockport Folk Summit**, featuring sets by MA-based folk luminaries **Kris Delmhorst**, **Tim Gearan** and **Dietrich Strause**. Each perform a set with their respective bands and then play all together for a joyous song swap to close out the night. **Kris Delmhorst** grew up in Brooklyn NY, but her musical home is in Boston MA where she cut her teeth on open mics, bar gigs, and subway busking before embarking on her life as an internationally touring songwriter. She has released six albums on respected indie label Signature Sounds. Delmhorst now lives in the hills of western Massachusetts with her husband, songwriter Jeffrey Foucault, with whom she occasionally performs as part of the collective Redbird. In May of 2014, Delmhorst released her seventh album, *Blood Test* (Signature Sounds) – her first of original music since 2008's critically acclaimed album *Shotgun Singer*. A prolific writer and constant collaborator, Delmhorst continues to share her unique perspective in this new work. The album describes a moment of reckoning and centering in the songwriter's life, and in society as a whole. In a collection of songs which move between triumph and heartbreak, restlessness and responsibility, Delmhorst acknowledges the weary work of an intentioned life – and the new American dream of presence and perspective in a frenetic time. A beloved fixture in the Boston music scene for more than 25 years, **Tim Gearan** has become a bonafide local music hero. His warm, raspy baritone, jaw-dropping guitar skills and wry, poignant songwriting have graced the bars, pubs, and music halls throughout New England, creating a loyal cult-like following. Gearan, a New York native, actually started his career as a lead blues guitarist, spending ten years touring as a sideman for the great Toni Lynn Washington as well as collaborating with the Grammy-winning singer/guitarist Susan Tedeschi. Finding his own artistic voice, Gearan settled in Somerville and began writing and performing on his own, crafting an intoxicating blend of Americana, folk and blues with shades of Randy Newman, Tom Waits and Lowell George. He quickly established himself as a force in Boston's resurgent roots music scene, his weekly residencies becoming can't miss staples of the city's nightlife. Gearan has released five albums to date, with a sixth entitled *Mostly Love* on the way this spring. **Dietrich Strause's** songs are a mix of timeless melody, literate lyricism, and a "virtuosic command of imagery." (*The Artery*, WBUR) In 2016 Strause released *How Cruel That Hunger Binds* produced by Zachariah Hickman (Ray LaMontagne, Josh Ritter), the next benchmark in his steady evolution as one of the most eclectic writers and performers coming out of New England. This latest collection of songs is found somewhere in the shadows of the likes of Randy Newman, Nick Lowe, and Paul Simon. Since its release, Strause has toured extensively throughout the UK sharing the stage with folk luminaries such as Sarah Jarosz, Darlingside, and Sara Watkins.

Tickets: \$20-\$26

More beloved singer-songwriters come to the Shalin Liu Performance Center earlier in the month, beginning with **Storm Large performing on Thursday, May 11 at 8 PM**. Known to many for her time singing with acclaimed lounge pop act **Pink Martini**, Large will be bringing her own band along with her dynamite musicality, charismatic stage presence and force of nature personality to Rockport for the first time. Large first shot to national prominence in 2006 as a finalist on the

CBS reality singing competition show *Rock Star: Supernova*. Before becoming a television sensation, she had spent the 90's singing in clubs throughout San Francisco, and later in Portland, Oregon where she developed a cult-like following. After her success on *Rock Star: Supernova* she took a career departure into theater, starring in Portland Center Stage's production of *Cabaret*. She then wrote and starred in the autobiographical one woman show, *Crazy Enough*, which played to packed houses during its unprecedented 21-week sold out run in Portland. A few years later, she released her memoir, also called *Crazy Enough*. It was released by Simon and Schuster and was named Oprah's Book of the Week, as well as being awarded the 2013 Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction. Storm made her debut as guest vocalist with the band Pink Martini in April of 2011, singing four sold-out concerts with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. She continues to perform with the band, touring nationally and internationally, and she was featured on their CD, *Get Happy*. Storm has also sung with Grammy winner k.d. lang, pianist Kirill Gerstein, punk rocker John Doe, singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright, and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer George Clinton. After forming her own band, which she dubbed Le Bonheur, Large recorded a well-received record in 2014 featuring interpretations of the American Songbook called *Le Bonheur*.

Tickets: \$38-\$52

On **Friday, May 12 at 8 PM**, Rockport Music presents folk pop artist **Deb Talan** who is promoting her upcoming solo record, *Lucky Girl*. Most fans know Talan as the co-founder (along with husband Steve Tannen) of **The Weepies**, an acoustic folk pop group that formed in Cambridge in 2001. Before starting The Weepies, Talan had started a promising solo career, releasing three independent records and becoming one of the most in-demand folk artists in the Boston area (3 time Boston Music Award nominee). Her powerful and infectious songs spread beyond the New England region quickly, Talan winning the Troubadour Prize at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in 2002. But it was with The Weepies that Talan's talents found a truly global audience, the easy musical chemistry between the two proved an intoxicating combination. Their debut record, 2003's *Happiness* (released independently), sold over 10,000 copies and convinced the influential roots label Nettwerk to sign the pair. *Say I Am You*, their major label debut, came out in 2006 and quickly shot up the charts becoming the most downloaded folk album on iTunes. They soon were being booked on the main stages of the country's biggest folk festivals. Talan continued recording and touring with The Weepies, releasing three more albums including 2015's acclaimed *Sirens*. Amidst it all, she and Tannen have raised a family together and survived a frightening illness (Talan was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer in 2013, and is now in remission). This year finds Talan returning to her roots, stepping out for a side solo turn (The Weepies are still together) and recording a new album on her own called *Lucky Girl*.

Tickets: \$29-\$39

On **Friday, May 19 at 8 pm**, **Ottmar Liebert** and his band Luna Negra bring their flamenco/new age guitar hybrid to Rockport. One of the most successful instrumentalists working today, guitarist Ottmar Liebert has created a niche for himself, creating a sound that borrows from flamenco, new age, jazz, rock and Pan-Latin music. Born in Cologne, Germany, Liebert began learning to play classical guitar at age 11, and spent much of his teens travelling around Europe and Asia, soaking up different musical traditions along the way. After a pit stop in Boston playing in rock bands, Liebert moved to Santa Fe in the late 80s. Happily settled in New Mexico, Liebert began playing acoustic, flamenco-accented instrumental music with his new band Luna Negra in Santa Fe's hotels and bars. His independently produced demo tape began to get a surprising amount of radio airplay and Liebert was soon signed to a record label, Higher Octave, who quickly re-mastered the demo and released it as a full-length debut entitled *Nouveau Flamenco*. That record quickly became a smashing success, eventually going double platinum in the U.S. After the equally successful, Grammy-nominated *Borrasca*, Liebert was picked up by Epic Records. The major label was able to bring the guitarist/composer's unique flamenco/rock/new age hybrid sound to a wider global audience. Since 1989, Liebert has released close to 30 records, ranging from studio classics to live sessions (*Viva!*), electronic remix records (*Euphoria*) and holiday offerings (*Winter Rose*). Five of his releases have been nominated for Grammys in the best New Age category. Liebert started his own record label, Spiral Subwave Records International, in 2002. In the last few years, Liebert has released several acclaimed records, including a compilation called *Bare Wood* and *three-oh-five* in 2014. His most recent, 2016's *slow*, is a

stripped down back to basics solo recording.

Tickets: \$59-\$45

On **Sunday, May 21 at 7 pm**, the **Cape Ann Big Band** returns to Rockport in a benefit for the Rockport Cultural District. In just a short span of time, the Cape Ann Big Band has become one of the most sought after ensembles in the North Shore. The Band was formed in December of 2010 when director Carlos Menezes Jr. teamed up with friends and fellow musicians Paula Burns, Shawn Lowe, Mike Lentini, and Rick Geraghty to discuss the potentials of starting up a 17-piece big band. What was once a dream quickly became reality when Menezes found the roster full in just a week's time. Driven by the talents of local musicians, the Cape Ann Big Band prides itself in performing to entertain and connect with its local community. This is a group that truly operates as a family. This diverse big band entertains and delights audiences with danceable music infused with jazz, swing, New Orleans street bands, soul, and rock n' roll that will bring you back in time. The Cape Ann Big Band prides itself with having a repertoire that has no boundaries. **The concert will feature singers: Nathan Seavey, Amy Rich, John Rockwell, Mari Martin, and special guest Kiva Trumbour.**

Tickets: \$26-\$20

Rockport Music features two events from our Community & Education program in May, beginning with **the Boston Children's Chorus on Saturday, May 6**. Under the direction of Anthony Trecek-King, the Boston Children's Chorus unites children ages 7-18 from diverse backgrounds to discover the power of singing and transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. The theme for the concert's program is *Brave*. The following week, on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 PM, we present a free community concert; the chamber music duo of **cellist Jacques Lee Wood** and **guitarist Simon Powis**. Powis and Wood have been working together for the last five years, starting out as colleagues at the Yale School of Music. They are co-founders of StringLab, a multi-disciplined cello/guitar duo that produce original arrangements and compositions for the ensemble.

HD Broadcasts in May

On **Saturday, May 13**, Rockport Music screens an encore presentation of the **Met Opera's *Der Rosenkavalier*** at 7 PM (the live 12:30 screening has sold out). The Met's first new production since 1969 of Strauss's rich romantic masterpiece is conducted by Music Director James Levine and directed by Robert Carsen. Renée Fleming sings one of her signature roles as the Marschallin, opposite Elīna Garanča in her first North American performances as Octavian.

Two **National Theatre of London** presentations in May include ***Obsession*** starring Jude Law (based on the 1943 film by Luchino Visconti) on **Thursday, May 18** and an adaptation of Edward Albee's classic, ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*** starring Imelda Staunton on **Wednesday, May 24**.

ABOUT ROCKPORT MUSIC

Founded in 1981 as the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Rockport Music presents exceptional concerts and cultural events in the "stunning acoustics and dramatic setting" (*Boston Globe*) of the Shalin Liu Performance Center. Best known for its summer chamber music festival featuring some of the world's finest ensembles and soloists, Rockport Music has expanded its offerings to include year-round presentations of jazz, folk, pop, and world music, high-definition broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera and National Theatre (London), and special film presentations. Education and community outreach activities serve nearly 10,000 students and adults throughout Cape Ann and the North Shore annually. Rockport Music is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

