



News Update

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A rootsy folk lineup warms up Rockport Music in May

Rockport Music brings a healthy dose of earthy Americana to the Shalin Liu performance Center in May, beginning with the exquisite harmonies of the chamber folk trio of **Harpeth Rising** on **May 3**. Unapologetic genre-benders, Harpeth Rising fuses folk, newgrass, rock and classical into something organically unique. The band features three classically trained musicians playing original music, as intricately arranged as a string quartet, lyrically rooted in the singer/songwriter tradition, and wrapped in three-part vocal harmonies reminiscent of both Appalachia and Medieval Europe. The concert is part of Rockport music's Education & Outreach program. **Tickets: \$15**

A few days later (**May 5**), the **Rockport Folk Summit** returns with a boundary-pushing double bill of **The Suitcase Junket** and **Twisted Pine**. This will be the third Folk Summit for Rockport Music, a concert series that features some of the best talent in New England and encompasses a wide variety of artists falling under the broad folk genre. This Summit has a theme of *Pushing the Boundaries* and these two acts exemplify that fearlessness. The Suitcase Junket (Matt Lorenz) is a one man force of nature employing percussive junkyard thump into his propulsive folk sound. Twisted Pine recently emerged as a four piece that has upended the string band tradition with forays into jazz, funk and pop. **Tickets: \$20-26.**

On the opposite side of the folk spectrum, we are happy to host the return of 60's flower power hero **Jesse Colin Young**, a singer-songwriter forever associated with his Summer of Love smash hit "Get Together"—a song which continues to be an iconic anthem for peace and tolerance to this day. Young has forged a long-sustaining career built on his soaring tenor, infectious melodies and thought-provoking lyrics. Young returns to Rockport on **May 17**. **Tickets: \$45-59**

Americana royalty arrives in Rockport on **May 18** with the appearance of Grammy-winning singer-songwriter **Shawn Colvin**. Colvin is touring off the release of *The Starlighter*, a record that features Shawn's tender renditions of traditional and standard children's lullabies. The result is an album that captures the magic and mystery of children's songs while also offering a moving and timeless musical experience. Ipswich's own **Melissa Ferrick**, a beloved folk treasure in her own right, opens the show. **Tickets: \$49-69**

Making his Rockport debut at the end of May (**5/26**) is the genre-bending crooner **Raul Malo**, a singer primarily known for as the frontman for the platinum-selling vintage country act The Mavericks. On his own, Malo embraces more sounds, infusing his wide-range love of blues, jazz, American Songbook, and vintage rock and roll with Latin jazz. What remains constant is that powerfully emotive voice and charismatic presence. **Tickets: \$39-\$55**

Despite the folk dominance of May, Rockport Music also spreads the love to other kinds of music, specifically gospel and choral music with the inspiring and uplifting sounds of the **Boston Children's Chorus** on **May 12**. The vocal-saturated music continues on **May 25** with the Rockport debut of **Naturally 7**, an *a cappella* group that are reinventing vocal music with a style they call "vocal play." With their rich harmonies, an unbelievable ability to replicate instruments, and a dynamic stage presence that can be felt in every seat of the house, Naturally 7 are taking *a cappella* music into the next era. They don't just sing without instruments, they BECOME the instruments. **Tickets: \$36-42**

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.

