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Woodstock Folk Festival

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Woodstock Folk Festival Begins its 25th Year With a Concert Featuring Dean Milano and Friends

The **Woodstock Folk Festival** kicks off its 25th year with a March 7 concert showcasing long-standing members of the Chicago folk scene. Another concert on April 18 features contemporary singer-songwriter Claudia Nygaard. Then in celebration of the 25th Annual Woodstock Folk Festival, the Woodstock Opera House will present Chicago folk legend Bonnie Koloc on July 17, Festival eve. The Festival itself takes place on Sunday, July 18, 2010 on the historic Woodstock Square; Ms. Koloc will receive the Festival's Ninth Annual Lifetime Achievement Award that day.

The Woodstock Folk Festival is delighted to present **Dean Milano, Tricia Alexander, Andrew Calhoun, and Russ and Diane Ward** in a special **fundraiser concert and book signing** in celebration of the release of Dean's book The Chicago Music Scene: 1960's and 1970's on **Sunday March 7, at 2 p.m., at Stage Left Café.**

These four performers present a great cross section of the vivid Chicago Folk Scene. All four of them were featured in the book – and Dean Milano is also a great songwriter and instrumentalist in his own right. This is a great opportunity to catch them together in a show and to have them all sign the book.

Here's an excerpt from the book, already in its second printing, which will be available for purchase and signing for \$23 (tax included): The Chicago music scene of the 1960's and 1970's was "...an incredibly vibrant period in urban and suburban music scenes across the country and throughout the world. This story will focus on the city of Chicago (along with an approximate 30 mile radius of its suburban club scene) and the homegrown performers who made it one of the most electrifying and memorable periods in music history."

Dean Milano (www.toys-n-cars.com) not only *wrote* the book about the Chicago music scene, he has *lived* it. For years, his chops have been the backbone of some of Chicago's premier bands. His two solo cd's Songs About Stuff and More Songs About Stuff give listeners insight into his intelligent writing, quirky (yet dry and subtle) sense of humor, and fine arranging instincts that have earned him well-deserved respect and recognition for decades. Greg Trafidlo, President – Kira Records (and fellow songwriter), echoes this sentiment saying that Dean Milano's "musical sensibilities, humor and craftsmanship are a breath of life to the singer-songwriter world."

Tricia Alexander (www.triciaalexander.com) is an accomplished guitarist and harmonica player, performance poet, award-winning facilitator, and Reiki Master who has been singing for as long as she can remember. With a vast repertoire that today embraces folk, jazz, blues and soft rock, Tricia was raised on 'old country' Assyrian music, the Benny Goodman Orchestra, Rosemary Clooney and the Smother's Brothers. Rich Warren (of WFMT's Midnight Special) said she "has one of the most GORGEOUS voices" and is "particularly adept at interpretations of other contemporary singer-songwriters." The Folk Music Source Book described her original material as "intelligent, contemporary writing" - in the same league as Anne Hills, Cheryl Wheeler, Holly Near, Christine Lavin, John McCutcheon, Nancy Griffith and John Gorka.

Andrew Calhoun (www.andrewcalhoun.com) is both a lightning rod for "the unconscious rightness of intuitive connection" and a perpetual student of songcraft with deep respect for both tradition and innovation. In the thirty-odd years that he has been a songwriter and performer he has created an impressive collection of songs, weaving a tapestry that includes not only his original songs, but also Spirituals, Scottish ballads that he has translated from dialect, as well as poems and songs by such exceptional writers as Dave Carter, Mary Oliver and Robert Frost. Andrew recently released his tenth album, Staring at the Sun (Songs 1973-1981).

Russ & Diane Ward live in Crystal Lake and love to present their vocal interpretations of a wide variety of songs from the past and present. Russ and Dean have made music together in a number of bands and folk groups dating back to the mid-sixties and Dean was there with his stand-up bass at Russ & Diane's wedding in 1974.

For immediate release.

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This March 7 concert will be followed by a second concert on **Sunday, April 18** with a performance by Claudia Nygaard (www.claudianygaard.com) at 2 p.m. at Stage Left Cafe. Like Guy Clark and John Prine (another stalwart of the Chicago folk scene), Claudia straddles the fence between country and folk music.

Both concerts are benefits for the summer Festival; the suggested donation is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Reservations are not required but are recommended for these events. For more information, call 815-479-9WFF (9933) or e-mail woodstockfolkfest@sbcglobal.net. Or, visit us on the web at www.woodstockfolkfestival.org.

On **Saturday night, July 17, at 8 p.m.**, the Woodstock Opera House will present **Chicago folk legend Bonnie Koloc**, who is also a musician featured in Dean Milano's book. Tickets for this special concert will be available by calling the Opera House box office at 815-338-5300. Additional information will also be available on the Opera House web site, www.woodstockoperahouse.com. On **Sunday afternoon, July 18**, the Festival will present its **Ninth Annual Lifetime Achievement Award to Ms. Koloc**.

All of the events take place on historic Woodstock Square: the concerts take place at the Stage Left Café, which is located next to the Woodstock Opera House at 125 Van Buren Street, and the summer Festival is held in the park on the Square. Woodstock Square is located a few blocks West of Illinois Route 47, and is easily accessible from Routes I-90, 14 and 120. There is parking around the perimeter of the Square. Woodstock is also accessible via the Union Pacific/Northwest Metra Line, running between Chicago and Harvard; the train station is one block from Woodstock Square.

Woodstock Folk Festival, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Woodstock, Illinois, about 60 miles northwest of Chicago. Its purpose is to bring quality folk music – local, national and international – to the McHenry County area. It is held on the third Sunday in July. The Woodstock Folk Festival is supported in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and Target.