

On September 12, Montalvo Hosts *Songwriters Festival* featuring Bay Area Artists and International Favorites!

Who will be the next Bob Dylan? Neil Young? Joan Baez? The Songwriters Festival introduces a diverse group of emerging artists and established legends, performing on three stages on the Montalvo grounds September 12, 2-8:30 pm.

Ruthie Foster's songs are a remarkable hybrid of blues, gospel, roots and folk music. Critics have compared her vocals to those of Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin. Raised in Gause, Texas, a small town 180 miles southeast of Dallas, Ruthie grew up surrounded by the rich, soulful sounds of gospel and blues. Her musical journey took her from Texas to New York City, where she toured with the U.S. Navy Band "Pride" and appeared at many of the top venues in town opening and performing with artists such as Josh White, Jr., Matt "Guitar" Murphy, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, and Paul Schaffer. She has since returned to Texas and just completed her third solo album, *Runaway Soul*.



Richard Thompson

Rising blues sensation **Jackie Greene's** casually seductive voice has been compared to that of Bob Dylan, Tom Waits and Gregg Allman. The Placerville native began on the coffeehouse and blues club circuit of Sacramento before releasing his first album in November 2002. At 23, he has performed with singer/guitarist Susan Tedeschi and recently received a standing ovation at the Fox Theatre when he opened for Buddy Guy. He was awarded two SAMMIE awards (Sacramento Area Music Awards) for best blues band and best guitarist. In addition, his album *Gone Wanderin'* won the California Music Award for "Outstanding Blues/Roots Album."

Vienna Teng's musical journey is a unique one – she left her work at Cisco Systems in 2002 to pursue music professionally, and recorded her first album *Waking Hour*. The San Francisco-based singer/songwriter/pianist quickly gained attention, appearing on The Late Show with David Letterman. Regarding her much-anticipated follow-up album, released earlier this year, All Music Guide writes, "With *Warm Strangers*, Vienna Teng has taken a confident step forward to create a set of songs that are sharper, deeper, and even more enchanting than her debut, proving that her talent and music are worthy of the accolades that continue to stack up around her."

Bay Area natives **The Waybacks** present death-defying bluegrass soaked with a range of musical influence. The Waybacks' unique sound is the combined songwriting and musical efforts of lead guitar, mandolin player and vocalist James Nash; fiddle, mandolin, guitar and Humanatone player and vocalist Chojo Jacques; and rhythm, fingerpicked and Weissenborn slide guitar player, and vocalist Stevie Coyle. *Roots Town Music* magazine calls them "a dream combination of punk vandalism and hyper-intelligent, seldom heard, humorous musicality," while the *Washington Post* says "Their inspirational combination of influences – not to mention their recklessly brazen breakneck pace – expose[s] the band as virtuosos sharing a singular mindset."

Local teen singer/songwriter **Lauren Shera** performs her original works, a blend of folk rock and poetry, accompanied on her signature purple guitar. Shera has opened for and performed with Phil Lesh & Friends, Joan Osborne, Jason Mraz, Iris DeMent, Mindy Smith and Garrison Starr, and performed at various local clubs, bookstores, coffee houses and the Sausalito Arts Festival. When Phil Lesh introduced Shera at the three nights she opened at the Warfield in San Francisco, he stated, "...Every generation or two a voice comes along that redefines what you thought you knew about music and touches you deep down in your soul... Her voice is going to redefine the next generation of folk music."

Boston-based **Catie Curtis** is described as "a pop-leaning writer in folk clothing." Curtis' vivid songwriting combines insightful lyrics with soulful strumming and energy. Her recordings and engaging live shows have garnered rave reviews, numerous awards and a solid touring career in the US and Europe. Her songs have been featured on *Dawson's Creek*, *Felicity*, *Alias* and *Chicago Hope* as well as several

independent films. She has toured with Dar Williams, Mary Chapin Carpenter and as part of Lilith Fair. She last appeared at Montalvo in 2002 with Tom Rush, David Bromberg and Janis Ian.

Richard Thompson first recorded as a teenager in the influential British folk rock band Fairport Convention in 1967. Leaving the band in 1971, he has recorded more than twenty critically acclaimed albums. While his sardonic wit, adventurous guitar stylings and amazing performances have not led to commercial stardom, countless musicians including Elvis Costello, Lou Reed and David Byrne have praised his work. A tribute album of Thompson's music, *Beat the Retreat*, featured performances by R.E.M., Los Lobos, X, the Five Blind Boys of Alabama and Bonnie Raitt.

Don't miss these even artists on three stages in a genre-crossing celebration of great singer-songwriters. Savor a snack as you roam between three of Montalvo's intimate performance spaces, the Garden Theatre, the Carriage House Theatre and the main room of the villa. All for just \$25! This one-of-a-kind songwriter showcase is on Sunday, September 12, with performances beginning at 2:00 pm.

<no author credited>; posted 08/20/2004

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