

Acoustic
Sussex



www.acousticsussex.org.uk

News Release

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For the attention of:

7 August 2009

Monday 21 September 2009
The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne

CORINNE WEST
Support: Tinderbox



"A siren of the Sierras" - Times Herald
Corinne West
"...her music has a cool layered sound
and is utterly spell-binding" - Maverick
www.corinnesmusic.com

Dubbed the 'Princess of progressive folk', West's music lives smack-dab at that intersection of folk, bluegrass, and country styles that is called 'Americana'.

Her clear, penetrating voice has been described as a cross between Alison Krauss and Natalie Merchant. She can grab attention by almost whispering a hushed introduction to a ballad, but she's also perfectly capable of raising the roof.

At age 15, Corinne grabbed her guitar and left home to live in a converted old yellow school-bus occupied by nomadic artists and activists. Nothing in particular was wrong at home but she felt things might be really right somewhere else. Corinne was on and off that bus for a few years, ending up back in California in a remote mountain town, making her home in a cabin that had been built by her great grandfather. She has been carrying her guitar ever since.

Corinne is rapidly forging her own contribution to Americana music, fusing the voice of an original singer-songwriter with the historic tradition of keeping stories alive through song. In concert, she brings a special grace and fire to the stage. The strength of her song-writing, the power of her voice and her magnetic stage presence create a captivating performance, winning rave reviews.

More at www.corinnewest.com

Tickets are £10 advance (£12 door) and can be bought online at the Acoustic Sussex website; by telephoning 01342 714810/716975; or email info@acousticsussex.org.uk

Biography overleaf

Quotes - what others say:

"Just three records in and The Promise, confirms Corinne West's place among America's finest singer-songwriters. Coupling a voice to die for with beautifully crafted songs that are memorable both lyrically and melodically West has fashioned a unique identity within American music's acoustic/roots scene."

Colin Hall, R2, Rock'n' Reel magazine

"I love Corinne's music and truly believe in her as an artist. She has spirit, integrity and talent. I am a massive fan." **Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2**

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that promotes quality singer/ songwriters and other acoustic musicians in the mid-Sussex area, using different venues. We encourage new and local talent by providing support slots for the main act and other opportunities such as 'open mic' evenings. Any profit we make from events is used for charitable purposes.

Corinne West – biography



Corinne West learned about the importance of communication early in her musical career when she joined a nomadic group of artists travelling around the country in a converted school bus. She was 15 and dropped out of school to tour the country. *"I left home and school really young" she says. "I was a wild energetic kid, and I had this incredible wanderlust from a very early age. People always assume something heavy happened at home but that wasn't the case. It just wasn't all that great. Everything seemed really static. I wasn't being offered anything I could sink my teeth into. Then I met a group of travelling artists and activists and that finally lit me up. I found a window into a different way of life and I jumped through it. Living on a bus and being a young teenager among counter-culture artists had a massive impact on me. I met a lot of characters and saw many ways to live... some crazy, some sane. I realized that the world was chalk full of possibility and that a creative life was a potent way to contribute, make statements and have a great time. And I had this guitar..."*

So, with guitar in hand, Corinne hit the road and began busking. That's where she earned her master's degree in delivering the soul of a song. It was a solid training ground for someone who had never taken formal music lessons and taught herself to play. She immersed herself in the process, but her love affair with music took root well before that. At five years old she was writing and singing tunes to

whoever would listen - often her parents or their friends who she would steal away one at a time during parties, but more often to the sky or a little girl's version of God in her room at night.

Her grandfather was also an influence. While he wasn't a musician, he exposed her to the power and magnetism of live music. *"My grandfather started taking me to honkytonks when I was 11 and taught me how to two-step" says West. "There were always big live country bands playing at the clubs. I would move across that dance-floor following his lead, beneath the band and the coloured lights, in a swingin' sea of dancers. Grandpa always knew everyone in the club. The two-beat would start and he would hit the floor with whoever was ready to step. It was love and magic and I was with my champion."*

No one knew that the two-step and childhood songs would lead her to the life of a musician. That idea began germinating while she was busking. She loved the energy and excitement of playing to a live crowd. Returning to her native California, she pursued music with a new-found passion. Corinne joined her first band at 19 and poured her heart into making music. The group ultimately dissolved, as did several others she joined thereafter. The break-ups were understandable but disappointing. *"I got tired of democratic bands always blowing up," she says. "Everyone has a different vision of what they want. It's like being in the kitchen with three other people and one wants Mexican, one sushi and one Cajun. Sometimes all you end up with is a big mess and a stomach-ache. I got to the point where I didn't want to be in another situation where everything stopped before it got off the ground, so I started writing and performing my own material."*

Choosing that path led to an explosion of creativity. She honed her craft and developed her own signature sound. It was a heady mix with the intensity of rock, the sincerity of country, the storytelling of bluegrass and the wide-openness of Americana. Corinne soon had enough songs for an album and began recording what would become her debut CD, *Bound for the Living*. Put together on a shoestring budget over the course of months, the album made West a rising star on the acoustic music scene. She toured relentlessly and won rave reviews from *Maverick* and *SingOut!*, among others. The legendary DJ Bob Harris began featuring her on his radio show. That led to a tour of England and Ireland in early 2007

Her travels and the response inspired a new batch of songs and new level of confidence in her music. *Second Sight* is a strong, focused, and emotionally powerful album rich with stellar musicianship, expressive vocals and songs that pierce to the core and sooth the soul.

There's magic in Corinne West's voice. It aches and breaks. It soars. It's clear, penetrating and washed in emotion. When she wraps that voice around songs as sublime as those on her latest CD, *Second Sight*, she's spellbinding. That's because she's unlocked the secret that so many singers spend entire careers looking for and never find. It's right there on *Second Sight*. It's in every note and lyric. But most important, it's there in West's voice.

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