

Acoustic
Sussex



News Release

www.acousticsussex.org.uk

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For the attention of:

14 October 2006

Saturday 27 January 2007 BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN Chequer Mead Arts Centre, East Grinstead, West Sussex



Beth Nielsen Chapman is a US recording artist and one of the pre-eminent singer/songwriters of her generation. Renowned for her pure, powerful and clear voice, Beth has become one of the most distinctive portrayers of resilience and human vulnerability.

Beth has penned hits and written tunes for some very prominent artists whose styles span country, pop, folk, blues and jazz, such as Bonnie Raitt, Emmylou Harris, Neil Diamond, Trisha Yearwood, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Bette Midler and Faith Hill's Grammy nominated mega-hit "This Kiss". Her songs have been featured on ER, Melrose Place and Dawson's Creek, and her movie credits include The Prince of Egypt, Calendar Girls, Message In A Bottle, The Rookie, Where The Heart Is and Practical Magic.

Beth has released five albums, including the groundbreaking Sand and Water, written and recorded following the death of her husband from cancer in 1994. This record is often used as a tool for healing through grief, and the title song was performed by Elton John on his 1997 US tour in place of Candle In The Wind to honour the memory of Princess Diana.

As Beth toured during the release of Sand and Water she often taught workshops on creativity and working through grief. Just as she was putting the finishing touches on her subsequent release, Deeper Still, Beth was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer. Successfully treated over the next twelve months, she went on to release the record and made it a point to speak about her experience and encourage women to be vigilant in caring for their health. It was voted Album Of The Year by BBC Radio 2's Terry Wogan.

Tickets £15 (less concessions) Box Office 01342 302000 or email info@chequermead.org.uk. More information can be found on the Acoustic Sussex website (www.acousticsussex.org.uk).

Extended biography overleaf...

Quotes - what others say:

"If you like well-crafted music for grown-ups, she's not to be missed." BBC website

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.

Beth Nielsen Chapman - biography:

Chapman's musical eclecticism found its roots in her childhood. The middle child of five in an Air Force family, she moved six times before she reached adolescence. At that time she started playing guitar and piano and writing songs. During her developmental years, Chapman was drawn to the compositional richness of greats like Hoagy Carmichael, Cole Porter, and George and Ira Gershwin. She memorised songs from Broadway musicals as well as soaking up the sounds of everything from Stevie Wonder, Sting and Joni Mitchell to Ella, Paul Simon and The Beatles, and honed her skills as a performer in small clubs throughout Alabama and the South.

Truly, Beth Nielsen Chapman has become one of the pre-eminent singer/songwriters of her generation. Her music shows up regularly not only at the top of the charts, but on television (ER, Dawson's Creek, Providence, Felicity) and in movie soundtracks, including "The Prince of Egypt", "Message In A Bottle", "The Rookie", "Where The Heart Is" and "Practical Magic". Mega-hit "This Kiss", ASCAP'S 1999 Song Of The Year, sung by Faith Hill (co-written with Annie Roboff and Robin Lerner), garnered her a Grammy nomination. That same year Beth was chosen as Nashville NAMMY'S Songwriter of the Year and was inducted into The Alabama Music Hall Of Fame.



Beth's songs have been covered by a wide selection of artists including Bonnie Raitt, Emmylou Harris, Neil Diamond, Trisha Yearwood, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Ute Lempter and many more.

As an artist, Beth has released five albums, four of which were on Warner Brother's records including her groundbreaking "Sand & Water" album, written and recorded following the death of her husband from cancer in 1994. This record is often used as a tool for healing through grief, and the song "Sand & Water" was performed by Elton John on his 1997 U.S. tour in place of "Candle In The Wind" to honour the memory of Princess Diana. As Beth toured during the release of "Sand & Water" she often taught workshops on creativity and working through grief. In addition, Beth has also taught songwriting at Berklee College in Boston as well as in various workshops across the US.

Just as she was putting the finishing touches on her subsequent release "Deeper Still" (to which John Prine, Emmylou Harris, John Hiatt, Kimmie Rhodes and Andy Bey all contributed background vocals) Beth was diagnosed with stage-two breast cancer. Successfully treated over the next twelve months, she went on to release the record and made it a point to speak about her experience and encourage women to be vigilant in caring for their health. The UK release of "Deeper Still" on Sanctuary Records was voted "Album Of The Year" by BBC2's Terry Wogan.

"Look" Beth's next release in the UK and Europe topped the charts and marked a new turning point in a life touched by both great happiness and great sorrow, and just as sadness and love shape a soul as surely as sand and water shape the earth, we see this artist's heart emerge strong, happy and still tender.

Her last release, Hymns, is an important milestone in the journey of Beth as an artist. A project that has been her intention to complete for many years has finally gone out into the world. Here is what Beth has to say about this amazing collection of songs:

"I was raised in a Catholic family and the beautiful melodies on the CD Hymns, sung mostly in Latin, were the 'hit parade' for all of us born before Vatican II. I came to record this CD while I was in the midst of recording a different CD of World Hymns, each in a different language and from a different religion. During that process, I was having trouble making up my mind which Latin hymn I would choose to include.

When I searched for a collection of my favourite Latin hymns I couldn't find one anywhere. That's when I decided it might be a good idea to go deep into the roots of my own spiritual beginnings as part of the journey of recording all these other hymns from around the world. This detour took me the better part of a year, and made my Mama very happy! Here, in these songs, are the roots of my spiritual journey. They centre me, even while I have come to believe that faith is something beyond the boundaries of any one religion.



My belief has always been that God is light, and humanity, like a diamond. Imagine each spiritual perspective, or path of faith, as an angle cut into that diamond. The light shines through and reflects off of all these angles in so many directions. If you were standing on one face of the diamond, it might seem as if the light is only shining on you. But I've always believed that God shines through all of humanity, and just as the sun breaks up and flies in every direction when it's light hits a diamond, every voice of praise, in every spiritual language comes from and goes back to the same source of light.

The stories and teachings of my childhood have certainly shaped my way of feeling connected to this light. But I feel that someone of the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, or any other faith, has just as much a right to define and to celebrate, from each of their perspectives, the beauty and sureness of the love of God.

I have for a long time wanted to use my voice like a thread winding through all these languages and melodies. Some of these melodies are very old, some new with ancient text. I've tried to be conscious of choosing lyrics that speak of devotion and faith whose meanings do not seek to separate or condemn any other voice of devotion."

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