

The A-Z gAZette

The Latest on Ann Zimmerman's Musical Exploits—May 2004

UPCOMING APPEARANCES

- *MAY 23 (Sun.) 12:00-4:30pm, **Beatrice, NE**, Homestead National Monument
 - *JUNE 5 (Sat.) Noon, **Fredonia, KS**, Wilson Co. Wildflower Walk
 - *JUNE 10 (Thu.) 5:30pm, **Salina, KS**, warm-up act, Festival Jam, Smoky Hill River Festival
 - *JUNE 12 (Sat.) 7:30-10am, **Salina, KS**, Farmer's Market, 7th & Iron, (during Smoky Hill River Fest.)
 - *JUNE 24 (Thu.) 7-9pm, **Pittsburg, KS**, Lem Sheppard Picking Party by the college lake
 - *JULY 3 (Sat.) Noon & 1pm, **Atchison, KS**, Lewis & Clark bicentennial with Connie Dover, Kelly Werts & Lisa Harris
 - *JULY 4 (Sun.) 7 & 8pm, **Atchison, KS**, Lewis & Clark bicentennial with Connie Dover, Kelly Werts & Lisa Harris
 - *AUG. 14 (Sat.) 8-10am, **Salina, KS**, Fmr's Mkt, 7th & Iron
 - *SEP. 4 (Sat.) 5:30pm, **Lucas, KS**, Adams Apple Festival
 - *SEP. 5 (Sun.) 2pm, **Topeka, KS**, Topeka-Shawnee Co. Public Library
 - SEP. 10 (Fri.) 7pm, **Kinsley, KS**, Rotary Fall Conference
 - SEP. 19 (Sun.) 5:30pm, **Glasco, KS** Mother-Daughter banquet
 - *SEP. 24 (Fri.) 7pm, **Ft. Scott, KS**, Pioneer Harvest Fiesta
 - SEP. 25 (Sat.) eve, **Salina, KS**, Kansas Legal Professionals, Inc.
 - SEP. 30 (Thu.) eve, **Hutchinson, KS**, Good Sams "Samboree"
 - *OCT. 1-3 (Fri-Sun), **Salina, KS**, Prairie Fest., Land Inst.
 - *OCT. 23 (Sat.) 8pm, **Olathe, KS**, St. Andrews Christian Church, Café Salvador coffeehouse, 13890 W. 127th
 - *NOV. 5 (Fri.) 8pm, **Manhattan, KS**, Northern Fl. Hills Audubon benefit, Manhattan Arts Center, with Connie Dover, Kelly Werts & Lisa Harris
 - *MAR. 6, 2005 (Sun.) 2pm, **Clay Center, KS**, Arts Council concert, Methodist Church
- *Event open to the public

EMAIL CHANGE

Ann has entered the world of high-speed internet service and is phasing out her old email address. Please update her address in your address book to ann@annzimmerman.com. Her website remain the same as always, www.annzimmerman.com.

NEW ALBUM AVAILABLE NOW! *BLUE WILD INDIGO*

After months of work and waiting, Ann's beautiful new album is ready for your eyes and ears, full of unforgettable songs.

EIGHT ORIGINAL SONGS

You have heard many of the songs at Ann's recent concerts, most notably the title song, "Blue Wild Indigo" in a rich blending of perennial prairie flora with musings on life, love, geologic time, and the future. Among Ann's other originals, "If I Had Been Beautiful," compares fantasy and reality; "June As June," describes a picture-perfect June wedding in a March blizzard; "Exile" is a farm kid facing adult life without a farm. In "Not Far From Emmanuel," the focus leaves the prairie for the Middle East and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. "Do You Know Jennie?" narrates the life of Kansas's earliest woman lawyer, first licensed to practice law in 1881. The challenges of responsible housekeeping are viewed in "The Recycling." And "Good Houses" celebrates the great work of Habitat for Humanity with gospel choir backup.

FIVE COVER SONGS & COLLABORATIONS

Joining Ann's many new original numbers are a few covers and collaborations. Ann teamed up with Kelly Werts to turn the short poem, "The Early Morning" by Hilaire Belloc, into a round; Kelly's instruments, and the voices of Connie Dover and Lisa Harris join Ann on that number. "The Inch Worm" from *Hans Christian Anderson*, a 1950's Frank Loesser movie musical, is a simple and lovely meditation in two parts, recorded with members of the Salina Children's Choir. "Elmer's Tune," is an entirely silly, snappy romp from the 1940's. The Celtic traditional song "I Know Where I'm Going" confidently tells its story, and "Lullabies," by contemporary songwriter Cosy Sheridan, lulls you into dreamland as the album ends.

FAMILIAR MUSICIANS

Kelly Werts, who so ably assisted Ann on her first two albums, returns as producer, creative collaborator and multi-instrumentalist to keep the music sounding good. His musical virtuosity this time extends to classical and acoustic guitars, fiddle, penny whistle, chimes, shaker egg, and hammer.

(Continued, next page ...)

Ann Zimmerman

A-Z Music

3904 N. Ohio

Salina, KS 67401-9259

Email: ann@annzimmerman.com

Website: www.annzimmerman.com

Phone: (785) 825-7135 or 309-0390

NEW ALBUM: BLUE WILD INDIGO

FAMILIAR MUSICIANS (cont.)

Bass player James Albright puts the solid bottom on the sound as he did on much of Ann's "Canned Goods" recording, switching among upright bass and fretted and fretless electric bass. Connie Dover, Lisa Harris, Larry Weaver and Denny Lowe return as backup vocalists. For the first time on Ann's recordings, Kansas blues artist Kelley Hunt adds her powerful blues and gospel piano styles on a couple of the songs. Other musicians participating in this big project: Eric Corby: percussion; Lindsay Ladman: oboe; Diana Werts: accordion; Dave Agee: tenor banjo; Matt Kirby: percussion; Lewis Kollhoff: bird whistles; and singers Melissa Atchison, Bob Atchison, five members of the Salina Children's Choir, and fourteen members of the Salina Gospel Voices.

Ann herself, besides singing the songs and a lot of the harmonies, also plays acoustic guitar, piano and the ball peen hammer (or was it a claw hammer?). Those hammers were a natural addition to "Good Houses," the home construction song for Habitat for Humanity.

GORGEOUS PACKAGING

Salina visual artist Michael Gutierrez designed the cover and inside packaging. His simple, beautiful graphics mirror the colors of the flower of the title. Portraits of Ann and the blue wild indigo blossoms, leaves and seedpods in photographs by Tom Dorsey, Tom Barnes and Ryan Soderlin are tied together in striking purple and green.

POSTERS & CASSETTES YET TO COME

In a new development, you can soon purchase posters with the beautifully designed blue wild indigo flower photo and the album title. It isn't easy to describe here in black and white, but watch for it on the "Music Store" page of the website. The same design appears in miniature on the back of the CD booklet insert.

The compact discs are ready to purchase now. If you still prefer a cassette tape, those will be ready around the first of June. Posters should be available about the same time.

ORDERING INFORMATION

To order "Blue Wild Indigo," or earlier albums "Canned Goods" or "Love & Weather," make check payable to "Ann Zimmerman." Mail to A-Z Music, 3904 N. Ohio, Salina, Kansas 67401-9259. Cost per compact disc: \$15.00. Cost per cassette tape: \$10.00 (Blue Wild Indigo cassettes available after June 1). Add local sales tax (Kansas residents only) and \$2.00 shipping.

NOW AVAILABLE: Buy Ann's albums through her website "music store" using PayPal and your credit card.

PURCHASE IN A FEW STORES

Kansas fans in the Salina and Manhattan areas can purchase Ann's albums at the following stores: in Salina, The House of Sight & Sound, 1300 S. Santa Fe; and The Smoky Hill Museum Store, 211 W. Iron; in Manhattan, The People's Grocery, 17th & Yuma.

RADIO AIRPLAY?

In today's radio climate, almost every radio station is programmed through one of about three major national conglomerates. So local artists are seldom able to break into the local broadcast music scene. A rare few stations do their own programming, mostly public radio or community stations. If you know a local DJ who is willing to give Ann's music a listen and maybe a broadcast, please let us know, and we'll send them Ann's new album.

LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL MUSIC

July 3 & 4 this year mark the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition's stop at the bend in the Missouri River that is now Atchison, Kansas. Ann, along with musical friends Connie Dover, Lisa Harris and Kelly Werts, will help in the gigantic commemoration of that event, singing songs that the explorers themselves might have been singing along the way. Don't miss it.

USE EMAIL IF YOU CAN

Emailed newsletters are much easier and cheaper to send, use fewer resources and don't cause as much waste material. If you're receiving this report on paper, please send us your email address if you have one, and we'll send your next **A-Z gAZette** through cyberspace.