

The A-Z gAZette

The Latest on Ann Zimmerman's Musical Exploits—December 2006

UPCOMING APPEARANCES

- DEC. 3 (Sun.) – eve – Wilson, KS, Wilson Telephone Co. Christmas Party
- DEC. 5 (Tue.) - after lunch – Salina, KS, Foster Grandparents volunteer appreciation lunch, Martinelli's Restaurant. A project of Kansas Children's Service League
- DEC. 7 (Thu.) – eve – Woodbine, KS, Dickinson County Rural Life Christmas meeting, church fellowship hall
- *DEC. 8 & 9 (Fri. & Sat.) – 8pm Fri., 7pm Sat. – Manhattan, KS, Manhattan Arts Center holiday concerts: Friday concert for adults, Saturday for families; opening act: KSU's Cadence
- DEC. 12 & 14 (Tue. & Thu.) – Salina, KS, Songwriting workshop, Schilling Elementary, grade 5
- 2007**
- JAN. 8 (Mon.) – Salina, KS, Revolutionary War songs concert, Heusner Elem., grade 5
- JAN. 9-24– Salina, KS, three songwriting workshops with Meadowlark Ridge Elementary, grade 4
- Jan. 16-31 – Salina, KS, Kansas Songs concerts for twenty classes in eight elementary schools
- JAN. 29 (Mon.) – 2:30pm – Hillsboro, KS, Elementary School, Kansas Day concert
- *FEB. ?? (tba) – 6:30-9:30pm – Washington, KS, the new Mayberry's Restaurant, Main Street
- FEB. 1-8 – Salina, KS, three songwriting workshops, Stewart Elementary, grade 5
- MAR. 2 (Fri.) – after lunch – Salina, KS, private event
- MAR. 5-13 – Salina, KS, four songwriting workshops, Sunset Elementary, grade 5
- MAR. 27-30 – Salina, KS, Revolutionary War songs concerts, four elementary schools
- *MAY 5-6 (Sat.-Sun.) – Garden City, KS, Kansas Sampler Festival
- SUMMER 2007 – Salina, KS, music for YMCA kids grades K-5
- SEP. 2 (Sun.) – Leoville, KS, all-high-school reunion—classes of 1925 through 1969
- *SEP. 28-30 (Fri.-Sun.) – Salina, KS, Prairie Festival at The Land Institute
- *OCT. 6 (Sat.) – North Newton, KS, Bethel College Fall Fest.

*Open to the public

DIGGING UP NEW OLD SONGS

Aiming to share more music with kids, Ann has set off in search of music from the American Revolutionary War. It's not such a long journey, since Ann's mother put together just such a show back around the year of the U.S. bicentennial. Trouble is, Ann's mom no longer remembers those songs too well. So Ann is doing her own search, made so much easier with the help of the internet, and she's learned a lot.

Yankee Doodle is a good song to start with, since everybody knows it – with good rhymes, sharp mental pictures and stories behind it, it is almost a program in itself. Did you know that a group of foppish dandies in London in the mid-1700's had garnered the name "Macaroni" to describe their outlandish dress and behavior? Hence the naming of the feather in Yankee Doodle's cap. The song was first sung by the British to ridicule the colonists, but the Americans adopted it and sang it proudly.

Other lesser known songs of and about the war for independence include *Katy Cruel* (a snappy song about wanting to be somewhere else), *The Girl I Left Behind Me* (originally an Irish Gaelic song), *The World Turned Upside Down* (which was played as the British surrendered), and *Bennington Rifles*. As in this last song, guns present a necessary topic when the subject is war, and Ann is debating how to discuss the topic with elementary students in today's weapon-torn world. But as one teacher told Ann, "We can't talk about any war without acknowledging weapons."

Ann begins her Revolutionary War Songs concerts after the first of the year.

SWITCH YOUR gAZette TO EMAIL!

Ann now sends out news more often to her email list than to her U.S. Mail list. Please send Ann your email address to maximize the useful information you receive and minimize postage, paper use and waste.

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ANN'S SONG NOMINATED FOR AWARD

"June As June," from Ann's Blue Wild Indigo CD, received a nomination for Best New Folk Song in Just Plain Folks music awards this fall. Ann was thrilled to be among the internationally renowned songwriter nominees, although she learned in November that she was not the top winner.

Just Plain Folks, on-line promoters of independent musicians, listened through more than 300,000 songs on over 25,500 albums, nominating about 20 songs per category in dozens of categories, asking "Does this song move you?"

To see other nominees in that and other categories, go to jpfolks.org.

MUSIC FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Your order for Ann's CDs or tapes will usually be mailed the day after the order comes in.

To order "**Blue Wild Indigo**," "**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 posters are also available--11"x17" prints of the beautiful Tom Barnes photo and colorful text from inside the album cover. Cost: \$5.00. On all orders, add local sales tax (Kansas residents only) and \$2.00 shipping (per total order).

Ann's recordings are always available through her website's "music store" using PayPal and your credit card, or print out the website order form and send a check.

INTERNET & MUSIC DOWNLOADS

"Love & Weather," Ann's earliest album, is making a new leap onto the web. Available now on CD Baby (cdbaby.com), each Love & Weather song will soon be ready for iPods everywhere. "Canned Goods" was her first recording to hit cyberspace a few years ago at The Orchard, theorchard.com, and then "Blue Wild Indigo" joined CD Baby. In addition to selling the CDs, each of those websites made the songs individually available through iTunes and other download sites.

Of course, all three recordings are available at Ann's website. Links are being built there to jump directly from Ann's site to iTunes. Find the links by going to Ann's website "Music Store" page and clicking on an album cover.

For "Blue Wild Indigo" and "Love & Weather" (the recordings on CD Baby), you can even write your own album review. At the www.cdbaby.com website, search for either CD, then scroll to the bottom to find "Click here to write a review."

Fall Full of Music

A lively crowd of 850, including over 100 college students, tromped into the Land Institute's barn outside Salina in October for Ann's favorite annual gig – Prairie Festival. A little music and a lot of great ideas make for the always-fascinating weekend. In November, a swing to south central Kansas introduced Ann to Arkansas City's Caffe Acoustic, housed in Brown's Office Supply, surely the most eclectic office supply store in the land.

A concert for Lincoln, Nebraska's Southeast Community College faculty, then Topeka, Kansas, for the multi-state tax commissioners convention, then El Dorado's Iron Horse Concert Hall, a rally sponsored by Salina People for Peace, and the annual meeting of the Flint Hills Sierra Club, along with many other harmonious events, kept Ann and her music on the move.