



c/o Martin Snodin,
Farthings, Lion Lane,
Turners Hill,
West Sussex RH104NU

Tel. 01342 716975 (eve/weekends)
01737 376090 (day)
mobile: 0780 901 3329
email: martin@acousticsussex.org.uk

For the attention of:

13 February 2007

Monday 12 March 2007
Chequer Mead Arts Centre, East Grinstead

THEA GILMORE
Support: Erin McKeown

'UP CLOSE AND ACOUSTIC' TOUR

Thea Gilmore takes to the road in March for her first all-acoustic UK tour in five years.

The internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter, whose latest album Harpo's Ghost hit the charts on its release last August, is leaving her band at home this time around and paring things down to an intimate acoustic show - or 25 shows to be precise, throughout England Scotland and Wales during March and April.

Since making her recording debut aged just 17 - almost 10 years ago - Thea has carved out a unique niche in a music business more and more ruled by market forces and manufactured acts. Hailed by The Independent as "**the most coherent, literate and charged singer-songwriter of her generation**" and by Uncut as "**The best British singer-songwriter of the last 10 years - and then some!**" Thea's lyrics combine poetic grace with acerbic take-no-prisoners social observation. And the thread binding the whole package together? Thea's stellar crystalline voice, spine tingling and mesmeric, whilst delivering a hushed ballad one moment, hissing out an angry rock tune the next.



Noted Thea Gilmore fans include Bruce Springsteen - who uses her tracks every night as his pre-performance music, Martha Wainwright - with whom Thea performed in the UK last year - and Joan Baez, who invited Thea onto her pre-election tour of the US tour in 2004.

Thea has released seven albums in her career to date. The last two both achieved chart success. Avalanche (released 2003) was chosen as Radio 2's album of the week and included the hit singles Juliet and Mainstream, whilst Harpo's Ghost (of which the Guardian wrote "**she has polished her pithy folk until it gleams**") included collaborations with Mike Scott of the Waterboys, and fellow acclaimed English singer/songwriter Kathryn Williams.

Thea recently performed at the famous Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow, sharing the stage with Karine Polwart and legendary singer/activist Peggy Seeger in a much acclaimed "Songs Of Conscience" concert at the City Hall.

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.

The "Up Close And Acoustic" tour will see Thea performing songs from all her seven albums, and there will also be an unveiling of brand new material (even the experience of recently becoming a mother for the first time hasn't slowed the prolific output she has always achieved). And as regular attenders of Thea shows know, an acoustic gig will also involve unexpected and often unlikely cover versions thrown in; in the past these have ranged from Irish and North American folk songs to Paula Abdul hits!

Thea Gilmore remains a beacon of talent and integrity, an artist who really matters. She will be accompanied on this tour only by long-time musical right-hand man Nigel Stonier, and the "Up Close And Acoustic" show promises to be an unforgettable night.

More at www.theagilmore.com

Special support: Erin McKeown

Support for this show is Erin McKeown, a singer songwriter described as having **"the wit of Randy Newman, the innovative stylings of Bjork, and the intricate arrangements of Elvis Costello"**. Erin has packed a ton of music into her young



career. With 5 studio albums, 2 EPs, and numerous soundtracks and compilations to her credit, the 28-year-old multi-instrumentalist hasn't stopped for a breather in the last 10 years. Along the way she has averaged 200 shows a year and garnered the praise of fans and critics alike. Her new release, **Sing You Sinners**, has received rave reviews (4 stars in Sunday Times).



More at www.erinmckeown.com

Tickets are £14 (less concessions) from the Box Office 01342 302000 or email info@chequermead.org.uk. More information at (www.acousticsussex.org.uk).

Quotes - what others say:

"One of the boldest and poetic lyricists currently working in British music. Gilmore's English-rose appearance and clear, folky voice exude a middle-class politeness quite at odds with the biting content of her songs."

The Telegraph

"...a sparkling collection of Aimee Mann-esque power pop."

The Independent on Sunday

"Dark Angel...honesty running like a bayonet"

The Guardian

"Britain has spawned very few world class female singer-songwriters, but Gilmore is already in a league of her own"

Q magazine

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.