

# North Shore Jazz has got the blues

by Fiona Black

North Shore Jazz is back for its sixth edition running June 22 through to July 1. Building on the tradition of featuring renowned blues artists, this year is no exception. On June 29, Geoff Muldaur will make a rare appearance at the Capilano College Performing Arts Theatre for his North Vancouver debut.

Geoff Muldaur is one of the great voices and musical forces to emerge from the folk, blues and folk-rock scenes centered in Cambridge, MA and Woodstock, NY. During the 1960's and '70's, Geoff made a series of highly influential recordings as a founding member of the Jim Kweskin Jug Band and the Paul Butterfield's Better Days group, as well as collaborations with then-wife Maria and other notables (Bonnie Raitt, Eric Von Schmidt, Jerry Garcia, etc.). He has composed scores for film and television, garnering an Emmy in the process, and produced off-beat albums for the likes of Lenny Pickett and the Borneo Horns and the Richard Greene String Quartet. And his definitive recording of "Brazil" provided the seed for - and was featured in - Terry Gilliam's film of the same title.

With his magical voice and singular approach to American music in tact, Geoff is once again touring the world. Recent performances have included The Lincoln Center in New York City, The Getty Art Center in Los Angeles and the Royal Festival Hall in London, to name a few. Geoff's newest albums have met with high critical acclaim and feature Geoff's unusually crafted interpretations of classic, oftentimes obscure, American material as well as his own unique compositions. The recordings include performances by David Lindley, The McGarrigue Sisters, John Sebastian, Van Dyke Parks, Roswell Rudd, Amos Garrett, Lenny Pickett and Howard Johnson in supporting roles.

Geoff Muldaur's musical chops are certainly not confined to strictly folk-blues. Recently, he undertook a jazz project entitled "Futuristic Ensemble, 'Private Astronomy: A Vision of the Music of Bix Beiderbecke'" (Edge Music) - a tribute to the obscure, 1920s jazz musician. Muldaur, Loudon Wainwright III, and a troupe of exceptional guests manage to capture the spirit and sound of the late, cult-famous trumpeter. The core pieces are a series of arrangements of Beiderbecke's piano compositions for a chamber ensemble of violin, brass and woodwinds, building on Beiderbecke's fondness for composers like Ravel and Debussy. These are interspersed with big band vocal numbers featuring Muldaur, Loudon Wainwright III and various younger Muldaurs and Wainwrights, all arranged and orchestrated by Muldaur himself.

Although he is known as a musicians musician, it is clearly his voice that most identifies him. About his albums, the New York Times noted: Geoff Muldaur "...succeeds not because he copies the timbre and inflections of a down-home African American but because his voice - reedy, quavering, otherworldly - is so unusual that [the music] he sings becomes little more than a context, a jumping-off point." And about a recent performance in London, The London Times wrote, "Immaculate guitar picking



Geoff Muldaur

was matched by vocals that were rich, and bore out the guitarist, Richard Thompson's praise for him: 'There are only three white blues singers, and Geoff Muldaur is at least two of them.'

Other highlights of North Shore Jazz at Cap College theatre include the legendary New Orleans vocalist John Boutte with the Universal Gospel Choir, June 30. And at Presentation House Theatre, there's Hot gypsy jazz from the Marc Atkinson Trio on June 23 and three local masters - Sal Ferreras/Celso Machado/John Reichman perform a wonderful fusion of world music on June 24.

Free events include: June 22 - Sara Marrieros quartet - West Vancouver Memorial Library@7pm; June 24 - Pe de cana - John Braithwaite Community Centre, 145 West 1st Street @ 1pm; and June 30 - Infamous Stringdusters - The Pier On the Waterfront (foot of Lonsdale Ave) @ 4pm.

WHAT: North Shore Jazz

WHEN: June 22 - July 1

WHERE: Various North Shore venues

TICKETS: All tickets on sale April 26th.

INFO: Jazz hotline: 604.872.5200 Ticketmaster: 604.280.4444 or

ticketmaster.ca. For complete Jazz Festival schedule: [www.coastaljazz.ca](http://www.coastaljazz.ca).

## One of a Kind Woman - Julie Blue

Local singer-songwriter Julie Blue is launching her new CD *One of a Kind Woman* at a concert on June 8 at Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver and again at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre in Vancouver on June 9. Both concerts begin at 8 pm and feature special guest Joseph 'Pepe' Danza on percussion, Daryl Jahnke on guitar, Darren Parris on bass, and the 60-voice choir Singspiration Singers.

Julie believes that music is the universal language of love, peace, prayer and connection. All of these are demonstrated on her newest CD available at these concerts or through her website at <http://www.julieblue.com>

Tickets are at the Centennial Theatre box office or for the Vancouver East Cultural Centre at ticketmaster. The cost is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

