

# Joy Katzen-Guthrie

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**November 2005**

For Immediate Release

**For Further Information:**

Joy Katzen-Guthrie, [joyfulnoise@earthlink.net](mailto:joyfulnoise@earthlink.net)  
727-785-4568 • 800-354-1302  
Denise McMahon, Naples Public Library,  
239-593-0334

## **TAMPA BAY AREA COMPOSER/CONCERT ARTIST PRESENTS CONCERTS OF JEWISH MUSIC FOR NAPLES PUBLIC LIBRARY**

(Naples) The Naples Public Library presents composer-lyricist, recording artist, and cantorial soloist **Joy Katzen-Guthrie** in concert with two programs at two library branches. *Broadway to Hollywood: Jewish Writers of the American Musical Stage & Film* will be featured at the Naples Branch Public Library, 650 Central Avenue, Naples, on Thursday, January 19, 2006, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The program is free, but reservations are recommended to reserve a seat (call 239-263-7768), as space is limited. A second program entitled *The Heart and History of Jewish Music* will also be featured on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Naples Library Headquarters at 2385 Orange Blossom Drive., Naples. That program also is free, with seating available on a first-come-first-served basis. Call 239-593-0334 for information.

*Broadway to Hollywood: Jewish Writers of American Musical Stage and Film* will include an overview of the extensive Jewish contribution to the American musical, with a compilation of Broadway, film, and Yiddish stage music by Jewish writers from turn-of-the-19<sup>th</sup>-century to present, as well as stories of the musicals, their creators, and the genre of the American musical. Highlights from notable Jewish composers and lyricists will be featured.

*The Heart and History of Jewish Music* will bring music and history of a millennium of Jewish life in the Diaspora and Israel to life. Hebrew, Chassidic, Yiddish, liturgical, and Israeli folk music will exemplify centuries of Jewish faith, ritual, prayer, custom and experience.

A cantorial soloist for Florida synagogues since 1990 and a composer-lyricist and recording artist, Katzen-Guthrie presents concerts of traditional and contemporary Jewish music, spiritual and folk music from other cultures, and original songs with a message of worldwide unity and harmony. Her performances feature musical stage and film works, traditional Judaic liturgical, Kabbalistic, and Yiddish music, and her own songs that celebrate life with a weave of history and storytelling. A recording of original music, *Passages*, was produced with the aid of a Pinellas County Arts Resource Fund Grant in 1997. In 2003, Katzen-Guthrie received a Pinellas County ARF Grant in toward a second recording of original music recently completed. Additionally, she has three collections of Yiddish, Israeli, and liturgical Jewish music and original music for meditation.

A Memphis native, Joy has made her home in the Tampa Bay area in 1981 after leaving Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri with degrees in music and broadcast communications. She has concertized regionally and nationally. Since 2000, in arrangement with Regent China Tours (Tampa/Beijing), she has led five Jewish Heritage Tours of China and lectures frequently on the history of the Jews of China and the modern relationship between China, Israel, and today's Jewish communities in China. She teaches a variety of courses on music history, music healing, and Chinese history for Eckerd College Senior Programs, University of South Florida Learning in Retirement Series, and Elderhostel. She is webmaster of her own web site, [www.JoyfulNoise.net](http://www.JoyfulNoise.net).

# *In the Round & On the Road*

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July 1, 1999  
For Immediate Release

Call For Further Information:  
Joy Katzen-Guthrie, (727) 785-4568  
Shana Smith, (727) 550-0128  
Bonnie Whitehurst, (727) 784-1135

## **SINGER-SONGWRTERS BEGIN NEW CONCERT VENTURE**

(Palm Harbor, FL) Tampa Bay writer-performer-recording artists Joy Katzen-Guthrie, Shana Smith and Bonnie Whitehurst have teamed up to start a new concert venture called **In the Round & On the Road**, a songwriters-in-the-round concert featuring songs and stories of the three. The concept is inspired by Nashville's Bluebird Cafe, in which songwriters trade stories and sing original songs individually and as a group. The first four concerts have been booked for Sunday, August 22nd, 7 p.m. at Borders Books/South Tampa, 909 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa, Saturday, September 18th, 8 p.m. at Borders Books by Tyrone Square Mall, St. Petersburg, Sunday, October 3rd, 1:30 p.m. at the Unity Church of Today in Tampa, and Sunday, November 14th at 2 p.m. at Borders Books in Carrollwood.

The idea for the Songwriters-in-the-Round concerts came from Joy, who had worked with Bonnie Whitehurst on a number of occasions but not previously with Shana. "I was talking with a fellow performer about his idea of putting together a songwriters organization in the area as a means of sharing ideas and creative brainstorming." In fact, the idea has been embraced by a number of singer-songwriters with whom they've spoken. All three are members of the Women Musicians' Alliance; Bonnie and Joy are both on the Board of that organization, the home base of which is in St. Petersburg. Singer-songwriters Mindy Simmons of Sarasota and WMA President and founder Donna Klein of St. Petersburg are slated to perform in future in-the-round concerts, and Joy hopes to open the program to additional performers in the future, which would allow more concerts among busy artists whose schedules don't always coincide.

Performing throughout the Southeast for 17 years with 7 recordings of original and traditional music, **Joy Katzen-Guthrie** is equally at ease in concert or classroom, as soloist or bandleader, musical lecturer or cantorialist. Her live performances and recordings combine the various facets of her work as Cantorial Soloist for synagogues in Gainesville, Tarpon Springs, and Clearwater, Music Director of the Unity Church of Today in Tampa, and writer of contemporary pop music with messages of worldwide unity and harmony from generation to generation. Liturgical music of the Jewish Kabbalists, Israeli and Yiddish folk tunes, musical stage and film works, and her own songs that celebrate life make up her concerts, in which she provides a unique weave of history, storytelling, and song. A member of the Florida Artists Residency Program, Joy also sings for children of all ages and

adult students. In January this year, she released her latest album, *Passages*, a collection of original contemporary pop music, and re-released on CD her three-volume back catalog of recordings of Hebrew, Yiddish, and liturgical music.

"Voice and acoustic guitar are my working tools for the heartfelt task of composing and performing music," says **Shana Smith**, a St. Petersburg-based singer/songwriter who performs a large showcase of original music as well as the work of contemporary artists of blues, jazz, folk, and world music styles. A former oceanographer, actor, and dancer, Shana delved into music full-time in 1993. She was nominated Best Female Vocalist in the 1994-96 Bay Area Music Awards and 1996 Florida Jammy Awards, has toured nationwide, and has opened for national acts such as Jonathan Edwards, Ann Rabson, McBride and the Ride, and Roy Bookbinder. A tireless supporter of the work of women artists and independent singer-songwriters, Shana also presents a special program for children called *Shana Banana: Music and Fun for Kids*, a whimsical interactive show involving songs, stories, puppets, and audience participation. Shana has two CD's: her latest self-titled recording of original music and *Shana Banana: Music and Fun for Kids*, a recording of music from her children's programs.

Palm Harbor singer/songwriter **Bonnie Whitehurst** comments that her style reflects the classical piano training she had from age three. The preservation of folk music from around the world and the performance of liturgical music from virtually every religious denomination have been motivating forces behind her work. Her performance of authentic folk instruments including harp, hammered dulcimer, lap dulcimer, psaltery, penny whistle, and many more, lends a distinctive sound to her lilting soprano voice and her classical/folk performances. Bonnie has released five albums: *Songs of the Covenant* containing sacred Jewish music, *Songs of the Solstice*, a collection of seldom-heard winter holiday music from around the world, *Songs of the Angels* containing sacred world hymns, *Songs of the Broadloom*, a collection of American and world folk songs, and *Songs of Myself*, with fifteen original contemporary folk songs and compositions. She has performed at folk festivals throughout the country and actively performs for children of all ages, bringing her unique array of folk instruments into schools around the state.

**In the Round & On the Road** with Joy Katzen-Guthrie, Shana Smith, and Bonnie Whitehurst, will be presented at: Borders Books/South Tampa, 909 N. Dale Mabry, Sunday, August 22nd, 7 p.m., (813) 874-5722 • Unity Church of Today in Tampa, 8210 W. Waters Ave., Tampa, October 3, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. (following services at 11 a.m. in which Joy sings, and potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m.), (813) 888-6822. Donations accepted. • Borders Books/St. Petersburg, 6901 -22nd Ave., N., Saturday, September 18th, 8 p.m., (727) 381-8890 • And at Borders Books in Carrollwood, 12500 N. Dale Mabry, November 14, 1999, at 2:00 p.m., (813) 265-8455. CD's and cassettes of all three performers will be available at all performances

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P. O. Box 1257 • Palm Harbor, FL 34682-1257  
(727) 785-4568 HOME/OFFICE • (727) 772-0178 FAX • (727) 460-8183 CELL  
joyfulnoise@earthlink.net • KGAI2487@aol.com • <http://www.joyfulnoise.net>

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# BACA

אגודת חזני טמפה באי

## Bay Area Cantorial Association

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**For Immediate Release: January 3, 2007 • For further information, contact:**  
David B. Sislen, Congregation B'nai Israel, St. Petersburg, 727.381.4900, x205

**TEN CANTORS AND CANTORIAL VOCALISTS  
CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF SHABBAT  
WITH FOURTH ANNUAL CONCERT, FEBRUARY 10, 2007**

(Tampa Bay) The Bay Area Cantorial Association (BACA) presents MIZMOR SHIR L'YOM HASHABAT: SONGS OF SHABBAT with a special performance hosted by Congregation Beth Am, 2030 W Fletcher Ave, Tampa, FL 33612, (813) 968-8511, featuring nine cantors and cantorial vocalists currently serving the Tampa Bay and Sarasota areas. Additionally, Cantor Sharon Brown-Levy, formerly of St. Petersburg and a co-founder of BACA, will return for this concert from Temple Emanu-El in Livingston, New Jersey, where she has served as cantor since June 2006.

The concert is Saturday, February 10, 2007, 8 p.m. All are welcome, and tickets will be available at the door for a suggested donation of \$18 each. Proceeds benefit scholarships for cantorial students.

The versatile concert — an annual undertaking now in its 4th year — will include Chasidic, Sephardic, Ashkenazic, folk, and original liturgical pieces celebrating Shabbat (Sabbath). Solos, duets, and ensemble pieces with several or all participants will cover a range of Jewish writers, eras, styles, and cultures worldwide.

BACA holds its concert annually on or near the weekend of Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song), when the traditional Torah reading contains the song of thanksgiving sung by the Children of Israel upon crossing the Reed Sea. It has become customary around the world to hold special music- and song-related services and events close to this date, which occurs in the mid-winter.

Participants include **Riselle Bain** (Congregation Schaarai Zedek, Tampa, [www.zedek.org/](http://www.zedek.org/)), **Sharon Brown-Levy** (Temple Emanu-El, Livingston, New Jersey, [www.emanuel.org/](http://www.emanuel.org/)), **Marla A. Goldberg** (Temple Beth El, St. Petersburg, [www.templebeth-el.com/](http://www.templebeth-el.com/)), **Deborah Jacobson** (Temple Ahavat Shalom, Palm Harbor, [www.AhavatShalom.org](http://www.AhavatShalom.org), [www.deborahjacobson.com/](http://www.deborahjacobson.com/)), **Joy Katzen-Guthrie** (Independent, [www.joyfulnoise.net](http://www.joyfulnoise.net)), **Harold Orbach** (Temple B'nai Israel, Clearwater, [www.templebnaiisraelclw.org/](http://www.templebnaiisraelclw.org/)), **Jodi Sered-Lever** (Congregation Kol Ami, Tampa, [www.kolami.org/](http://www.kolami.org/)), **Vikki Silverman** (Congregation Beth Am, Tampa, [www.cbatampa.com/](http://www.cbatampa.com/)), David B. Sislen (Congregation B'nai Israel, St. Petersburg, [www.cbistpete.org/](http://www.cbistpete.org/)), **Marci Vitkus** (Jewish Center of Venice, [www.jccv.org](http://www.jccv.org)), with pianist **Chana Olmstead** as accompanist.

Community and participants alike look forward to the concert, which focuses on a unique theme each year. The annual BACA performance has raised funds for generous scholarship gifts to the H. L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary (Conservative) and the School of Sacred Music of Hebrew Union College (Reform).