



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

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

For the attention of:

3 May 2010

Wednesday 26 May
at Chequer Mead, East Grinstead

GRETCHEN PETERS



Hailed by many as one of Nashville's best contemporary songwriters, Gretchen Peters' intelligent and introspective songs have been covered by pop, country, blues and folk artists all over the world, including Trisha Yearwood, Martina McBride and even Neil Diamond. She possesses a rare ability to drive a strong point, yet capture it eloquently in song.

That ability has won Peters two Grammy nominations and sold her millions of records worldwide. She also won the Country Music Association Song Of The Year award for "Independence Day".

The title track of her 1996 debut album, *The Secret of Life*, was recorded by Faith Hill, for whom it was a Top 5 country hit. The track 'When You Are Old' has become a regular on BBC Radio 2's playlist (Terry Wogan is a big fan!).

In celebration of her new CD release "*Circus Girl - The Best Of Gretchen Peters*", she is embarking on her first- ever all-request tour.

This intimate Chequer Mead show will encompass and highlight her entire body of work and feature the stories behind the songs, personal anecdotes and glimpses behind the scenes of her 20+ year career. The set list is composed entirely of requests by fans via email, Twitter, Facebook and Peters' website.



Tickets are £15 (£12.50 conc) Box Office 01342 302000 (www.chequermead.org.uk)
More information: www.acousticsussex.org.uk.

More overleaf...

Quotes - what others say:

"Some singers were born to perform and Gretchen Peters is definitely one of them... her voice arrestingly beautiful, her delivery perfect and the songs divine." **HMV Magazine**

"Her songwriting is better than 99% of writers working in this or any other genre." **Americana-uk.com**

"The tag for her work is alternative country but with a voice as haunting and controlled as this, she could sing anything put in front of her." **Belfast Telegraph**

"In Peters' music every tale is brave, unique, beautiful." **Time Magazine**

What is Acoustic Sussex?

Acoustic Sussex is a non-profit making organisation that puts on live 'folk, roots and acoustic' events in the mid-Sussex area. Any profit we make over the year is used for charitable purposes.

Gretchen Peters – biography



In celebration of the release of “**Circus Girl - The Best Of Gretchen Peters**”, the acclaimed Nashville singer-songwriter is embarking on her first-ever all-request tour of the UK. The intimate shows will encompass and highlight her entire body of work and feature the stories behind the songs, personal anecdotes and glimpses behind the scenes of her twenty plus year career. The set list (composed entirely of requests by fans via email, Twitter, Facebook and Peters' website) will include fan favourites such as "On A Bus To St. Cloud" and "Sunday Morning (Up and Down My Street)" as well as more obscure selections from the Deluxe Limited Edition of "Circus Girl", which contained 16 tracks of rarities and previously unreleased songs.

Peters says: *“The songs in this collection have been with me through the better part of my life. They've seen me through my 30's, my 40's, child-rearing, divorce, falling in love, the death of a parent. They've seen me through my life. They are my life. They are the story of my life, and they are the story of other people's lives. Sometimes it's impossible to tell the difference, and that's no mistake.”*

Gretchen Peters' musical career has grown like a Virginia creeper: new leaves spreading in one direction first, then another, then another still. She arrived in Nashville in the late '80s, a singing, songwriting product of New York, Boulder, Colorado and politically active parents. She quickly got a publishing deal, and her closely observed story-songs hit a sweet spot with some of mainstream country's finest voices of the '90s, such as “On a Bus to St. Cloud” with Trisha Yearwood, “You Don't Even Know Who I Am” with Patty Loveless and - most famously - “Independence Day” with Martina McBride. Culturally and critically the impact of “Independence Day” still reverberates. It earned Peters a GRAMMY nomination and CMA Song of the Year honours.

“It just seemed like getting the first olive out of the jar, they just started coming,” Peters says of her string of cuts. *“And it was great, but it wasn't really my master plan or anything. I was just as surprised as anybody.”*

In the mid '90s, when Peters got a record deal and the chance to record her own songs exactly as she felt they ought to be done. In 1996 (**The Secret of Life**) and every few years after (**Gretchen Peters** in 2001 and **Halcyon** in 2004) she offered a set of sophisticated folk-pop songs, sung in a fetching soprano that's as sultry as it is girlish, and rendered with the sensitivity and patience to tease out the nuance in every corner of a story.

Commercial country fans didn't quite know how to categorise Peters' music but UK audiences fell in love immediately and her shows have sold out there ever since. *“From the first time I went over there to play, the audiences were so great,”* she recalls. *“They just didn't hold those rigid ideas of what you were supposed to be, and to me that felt like blessed relief. It was almost as though my limitations were my blessings over there.”*

She realised that performing her songs live at every opportunity is just as vital to her as writing and recording them: *“I could see that life was short, careers are even shorter, mine is finite. I have some time, while I still feel like I want to be out there doing it. By god, I'm not going to wait anymore. And that was that.”* Now she's touring more than ever before - and relishing it.

“The first thing that strikes you about Peters is her voice. The vast array of singers she has written for obviously have their own appeal but it is hard to imagine how her own crystalline vocals could ever be bettered. Reminiscent of both Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris, yet maintaining a jazzy edge that sets it apart”. **The Scotsman**

“Peters the songwriter understands, intimately, the genetic code that guarantees the song will touch the listener. 10 out of 10” **Folkwax Magazine**

“She hasn't recorded a pile of albums like some artists, but she's recorded nothing but first rate material when she has.” **Village Records**

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