



newport rhode island

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For Immediate Release:

**EMERGING NEW ENGLAND FOLK ARTISTS
PENDRAGON and ANTJE DUVEKOT
ADD SPARK TO
DUNKIN' DONUTS® NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL LINEUP**

Newport, RI--Joining established artists such as David Gray, Indigo Girls, Odetta and Rosanne Cash festival producer Robert Jones has just announced that two New England-based artists have just been added to the 2006 artist roster for the Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival, taking place August 4 - 6.

"New England has always been a hot bed for singer/songwriter talent," said Jones. "I'm excited to add the Rhode Island based Celtic group **Pendragon** who will perform on Saturday, August 5th's Waterside Stage and an exciting new artist, German-born **Antje Duvokot** who will join the Song Circle with Martyn Joseph, Kerry Grombacher and Bob Franke on Sunday, August 6th."

Sonya Kitchell, Mary Gauthier, Grace Potter, Patty Larkin, Chris Smither and Bob Franke who are also on the festival bill, have strong New England-based connections or were raised here. These are all artists who have gained national recognition and made important contributions to the singer/songwriter repertoire. Perhaps it is the intellectual community of Harvard Square and other university settings in New England that strongly enhance the literary palette of songwriting.

Kitchell is an eloquent songwriter, dazzling singer and old soul who just happens to be 17 years of age. She grew up in a hothouse atmosphere of creativity on forty picturesque acres in rural western Massachusetts, where the family home has always been flooded with music and art.

Singer/guitarist/songwriter **Mary Gauthier** left Baton Rouge for Boston, opened up a restaurant called Dixie Kitchen in Beantown and made a name for herself performing in Boston and Cambridge coffeehouses on the side.

22-year-old phenomenon **Grace Potter**, whose vocal chops have drawn comparisons to legends like Aretha Franklin, Bonnie Raitt and Janis Joplin, hails from rural Vermont and has already managed to go on tour with legendary musicians like Taj Mahal, Mavis Staples, and Trey Anastasio while managing to sell more than 30,000 copies of her record.

Singer/songwriter **Patty Larkin** works out of her Road Narrows recording studio on Cape Cod at the edge of the National Seashore. Born in Iowa, Larkin grew up in Milwaukee. Larkin attended the University of Oregon where she earned a degree in English Literature. From there, she headed east to the Berklee College of Music in Boston and has made New England her home ever since.

Chris Smither made his way to Cambridge at the suggestion of his early musical hero, Eric von Schmidt. Having previously lived in Miami, Ecuador, Rio Grande Valley in Texas, New Orleans, Paris, and Mexico City, his years in Cambridge [late '60s - early '90s] were pivotal ones, catapulting his career. Smither currently resides in Arlington, Massachusetts.

As Tom Paxton says, "I always think of **Bob Franke** as if Emerson and Thoreau had picked up acoustic guitars and gotten into songwriting. There's touches of Mark Twain and Buddy Holly in there, too." Franke began his career as a singer-songwriter in 1965 while a student at the University of Michigan. He was one of the first people to perform at the now famous Ark Coffeehouse

in Ann Arbor. Upon graduation in 1969 with an A.B. in English Literature, he moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has since made New England his home.

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Looking forward to their 23rd anniversary in 2006, the Rhode Island-based ensemble **Pendragon** has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River.

Pendragon seamlessly blends lively jigs and reels with Mary Lee Partington's original songs depicting the experiences of the immigrants who settled here and their role in the mill and textile traditions of New England. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow, performing their original songs and dance tunes on an exciting combination of fiddle, flute, bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, bass and percussion.

Legendary producer Neil Dorfsman, who produced *Edge of Silence* and CDs by Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Sting, and Dire Straits, comments on **Antje Duvekot**: "Her songs are stunning paintings of color and shade, and always generate the heat and light that real art should."

"I think she's going to be the next great American folk singer-songwriter," says folk-pop star Ellis Paul, who has been introducing his audiences to Duvekot and who also sings on her new CD. "She's writing songs we need to hear right now. I feel like I've been waiting for her to come along and join the club of traveling musicians that I'm in because we need a fresh voice to shake things up for all of us."

Duvekot's new CD, ***Big Dream Boulevard*** on Black Wolf Records was produced by Seamus Eagan, the mastermind behind the band Solas. Recorded at Morning Star Studios in Philadelphia, the release features Antje in collaboration with folks such as Ellis Paul, Phil Roy, Flynn and Ben Wittman . . . along with a cast of some of the best players around. But first, you notice the voice.

The Dunkin' Donuts Newport Folk Festival lineup is as follows: On Friday, August 4, 8 pm, at the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Ronan Tynan and Cherish the Ladies will perform. On Saturday, August 5 from 11:30 am - 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: David Gray, Rosanne Cash, Sonny Landreth, Bettye LaVette, Chris Smither and The Duhks will appear on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Sonya Kitchell, Mary Gauthier, song circle with Chris Smither, Darrell Scott and Jeffrey Foucault, Darrell Scott [solo] and Rosalie Sorrels perform on the Harbor Stage; Beólach, Hot Toddy, Blue and Pendragon perform on the Waterside Stage. On Sunday, August 6, also from 11:30 am to 7:00 pm at Fort Adams State Park: Indigo Girls, The Meters, Madeleine Peyroux, Keller Williams, Patty Larkin and Tim Eriksen presents Shape Note all perform on the Dunkin' Donuts Stage; Odetta, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, *La Guitarra* featuring Patty Larkin, Mimi Fox & Muriel Anderson, Tim Eriksen & Riley Baugus, Riley Baugus [solo], *Song Circle* with Martyn Joseph, Bob Franke, Antje Duvekot & Kerry Grombacher and Abigail Washburn are set to appear on the Harbor and Waterside Stages. More artists and stage lineup will be announced shortly!

TICKETS: Tickets to the **Ronan Tynan** and **Cherish The Ladies** evening concert at 8 pm, August 4th at the Newport Casino, International Tennis Hall of Fame, 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI, are **\$30, \$45, \$60 and \$75**.

General admission tickets to Fort Adams State Park events August 5 and 6 are \$55.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children between 2 and 12 either day. Children under 2 will be admitted free of charge. Individual adult tickets go to \$59.00 for Saturday or Sunday on festival weekend, if available. **A limited number of Adult 2-Day Saturday/Sunday tickets are also available (while they last) for \$95.00.**

WHERE TO GET TICKETS:

For **NEWPORT AREA PATRONS**, the festival ticket office is located at 770 Aquidneck Avenue in Middletown. Cash, checks and major credit cards are accepted. Call **(401) 847-3700** for more information and current office hours. Starting this year, tickets will also be available at the **Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau** located at 23 America's Cup Avenue in Newport.

All Tickets are also available on line at <http://www.ticketweb.com/>, by phone at **(866) 468-7619** and by mail. To order by mail send a check or money order for the ticket cost plus a \$4.00 handling charge per order to: Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival, P.O. Box 1221, Newport, RI 02840.

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- ❑ Tune in to **WFUV 90.7 FM**, in New York, the official flagship radio station of the 2006 Dunkin' Donuts® Newport Folk Festival.
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- ❑ **Festival Productions, Inc.** has its own website at <http://www.festivalproductions.net/>

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