



# PATTY CARPENTER MUSIC

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## WOMEN IN JAZZ/WOMEN IN SONG CONCERT AT SHEA THEATRE

An evening of music featuring over 17 performers will take place on Saturday, March 4th, at the Shea Theatre in Turners Falls. Organized by jazz vocalist Patty Carpenter and her husband Charles Light, and supported by five local cultural councils, the concert features the Women in Jazz Combo with Carpenter and her daughter, Melissa Shetler, handling vocals; Yasko Kubota, piano; Ellen Powell, bass; Claire Arenius, drums; and Scott Shetler, sax and clarinet.

The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School Super Group will open the show. The seven piece band plays a mixture of blues, rock and pop tunes and is under the direction of well known Valley performer and teacher Mitch Chakour.

The Second Act of the night will feature new songs written and performed by Patty Carpenter and noted Vermont poet, Verandah Porche. Over the last year, their collaboration has proven quite fruitful and they have combined their talents on creating tunes with themes that range from the romantic, to the maternal, to the political. "I've know Verandah for over 35 years," said Carpenter, "and that has helped our song-writing immeasurably. We come from the same frame of reference, but with different skills. And while Verandah fine tunes the words, and vice versa with myself and the music, there's a lot of cross over, and interplay in the creation of the songs." Patty will play the piano during this set and they will be backed by Molly Welch, guitar; Sasha Starr, drums; Emily Coutant, vocals; and Scott Shetler, sax and clarinet.

The Third Set of the night will feature the Women in Jazz Combo and will be devoted to jazz standards, Latin songs, originals, and blues. Band leader Patty Carpenter has recorded three CDs and plays throughout New England and New York. "Vocalist Patty Carpenter boasts an organic, relaxed, folk-like tone, an unerring rhythmic sense and masterly dynamic control," wrote Seth Rogovy in the Berkshire Eagle. The jazz magazine Cadence said, "She has an approach that clearly lets her shift from style to style without violating the essence of what she does. She knows and loves these songs. She's comfortable with them, and treats them all as good friends, taking them as they are and enlivening them gently." Marty Jezer, historian and jazz writer, wrote "whether you swooned to Sinatra or jitterbugged to Goodman, Miller, the Dorseys, and Count Basie, whether you are a twenty or thirty something, a teenage slacker, a generation 'X-er", or a baby boomer you are sure to be touched by the marvelous, lyrical singing of Patty Carpenter."

Melissa Shetler grew up immersed in music. As the child of two working musicians, she was exposed to a wide variety of musical styles, especially jazz and blues. At 12, she began publicly singing with her mom and dad and their various bands.

Now a singer in her own right, her voice has matured into a sultry, smoky, bluesy style that is equally at home singing swing tunes or salsa. She delivers blues numbers in a husky growl, rich with double meanings and sly inferences. Since moving to New York in 1995, Melissa has played at Arturo's, Windows of the World, Swing 46, The Supper Club, The Waterfront, 11th Street Bar, the Detour, and the Jazz Standard.

Master pianist, composer/arranger, producer and educator, Yasko Kubota started taking formal piano lessons at age of three in Japan. She attended the Berklee College of Music where she received the Chick Corea Award. Yasko is currently living in the Boston area and performs nationwide. Her band, The Kubota POWERJAZZ Unit opened for Roberta Flack, Maynard Ferguson, Stanley Turrentine and Ashford & Simpson and she has played with New Kids On The Block, Smokey Robinson, Marky Mark, the late Alan Dawson, and the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra. Yasko has performed in venues such as Madison Square Garden, Giants Stadium, Great Woods, the Tokyo Dome and Wembley Arena, England.

Scott Shetler is one of Boston's busiest jazz saxophonists. He's played with Gene Pitney, Johnny Adams, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, and soul great, the mighty Sam McClain. These days he also does a bunch of writing and arranging. He's a staple of Michelle Willson's Evil Gal Festival Orchestra, the Hot Tamale Brass Band, and the C'mon Man Trio.

Burlington, Vermont bass player Ellen Powell has opened for Geri Allen, Dorothy Donegan and Abdullah Ibrahim and she has played with vocalist Sheila Jordan. Powell received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to study with Cecil McBee, and a grant from the Vt. Council on the Arts for her compositions. She has performed in the Bright Moments Jazz Festival, as well as in every Discover Jazz Festival since its inception.

Drummer Claire Arenius has played with Melba Liston, Attila Zoller, Archie Shepp, Ray Copland, Evelyn Blakey, Celebration, and more. She has her own trio which has performed at the Iron Horse and Burlington's Discover Jazz Festival. The recipient of a National Endowment grant, she studied with jazz great, drummer Charli Persip. An accomplished drummer, she has developed a strong individual sound that blends Be-Bop, Blues and shuffles with sensitivity, power, and creativity.

Verandah Porche is an itinerant poet (**The Body's Symmetry, Glancing Off**), performer, and writing partner to children and adults. She has been featured in the Burlington Free Press, Bostonia Magazine, the Sunday Globe, and on NPR's ARTBEAT. She has read at such sites as Harvard College, the Rutland Jail, the Palace of Friendship in the former Leningrad, and Nuyorican Poet's Cafe in Manhattan. Her work has received support and honors from the Vermont Arts Council

Information on Patty Carpenter and music downloads can be found at <[www.gmpfilms.com/patty.html](http://www.gmpfilms.com/patty.html)>. Tickets—\$10 in advance; \$12 at the door; and \$7 for seniors and students—are available at the Shea Box Office, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls (863-2281); World Eye Books, Main Street, Greenfield; or from Patty Carpenter Music (863-4754/774-6242). This program made possible, in part, by the Mass. Cultural Council as administered by the Greenfield Arts Funding Commission (GAFCOM) and the Leverett, Shutesbury, Northfield and Montague Cultural Councils.

