

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20100413/ARTICLES/100419910/1050?Title=Christine-Lavin-8217-s-songs-muse-on-love-culture-history-and-science>



Christine Lavin's songs muse on love, culture, history and science

By Bob Workmon
StarNews Correspondent

Published: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 9:27 a.m.
Last Modified: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 9:27 a.m.

Christine Lavin may be the greatest baton-twirling, backstage-knitting singer-songwriter you've never heard before, or perhaps you are one of the fortunate souls familiar with this curious singing sage. Either way, Cape Fear-area residents will have four opportunities to enjoy her wit, wisdom and welcoming presence this weekend at Thalian Hall.



Christine Lavin will play four shows this weekend at Thalian Hall. Photo courtesy Thalian Hall

Want to go?

Who: Singer-songwriter Christine Lavin

When: 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 16; 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18

Where: Thalian Hall, Rainbow Room, 310 Chestnut St., Wilmington

Tickets: \$25, 10-percent discount for Thalian Hall members. Seating is limited.

Details: (910) 343-3664 or at www.thalianhall.org

“I wrote my first song when I was 13,” Lavin said. And she had a lot to write about as one of nine siblings growing up in Peekskill, N.Y. Lavin started waiting tables, cooking and singing occasionally at Cafe Lena in Saratoga Springs after a short stint at college. She was singing at the cafe one night in 1976 when she was heard by singer-songwriter Dave von Ronk, friend and mentor to many legendary musicians including Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell. Von Ronk encouraged Lavin to go to New York City.

Within a month, Lavin made the New York pilgrimage, wrote songs, took guitar lessons, worked briefly as a strolling musician in a Mexican restaurant and full-time at Bellevue Hospital. Then came a moment, she said, when she realized that she had to choose between paycheck and passion, to declare her self a professional musician and hit the road. “I went from making \$25,000 to \$6,000 a year” she said with a laugh.

“I’ve made my living as a singer-songwriter since 1985, so this is my 25th year,” Lavin said over the phone from a Connecticut hotel room. She is marking the anniversary with a tour and soon-to-be published book, “Cold Pizza for Breakfast: A Mem-Wha?” The book offers reflections on the road, with the focus on the musicians she admires and who helped her along the way.

A generous spirit, Lavin said that one of the goals for her memoir was to help audiences and musicians alike. “I wanted to include good and worthy musicians in this book because the recording industry has changed so much, it’s hard to know and find really good music,” she said, “and I’m consciously not bad-mouthing anyone!” To that end, the glossary on fellow musicians is extensive.

Lavin’s songs cover a remarkable range of subjects, from poignant observations about affairs of the heart in “The Kind of Love You Never Recover From” and gentle mocking of cultural trends in “Sensitive New Age Guys,” to history in “The Wild Blue” with its subject of Japanese kamikaze pilots in World War II and science in “Planet X,” the lyrics of which have been included in astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson’s book “The Pluto Files: The Rise and Fall of America’s Favorite Planet.”

In short, Christine Lavin has a gift for finding what makes us laugh, cry and think as we listen, bringing her songs to life with a voice that echoes in our consciousness.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be re-published without permission. Links are encouraged.