



Lincoln Association For Traditional Arts

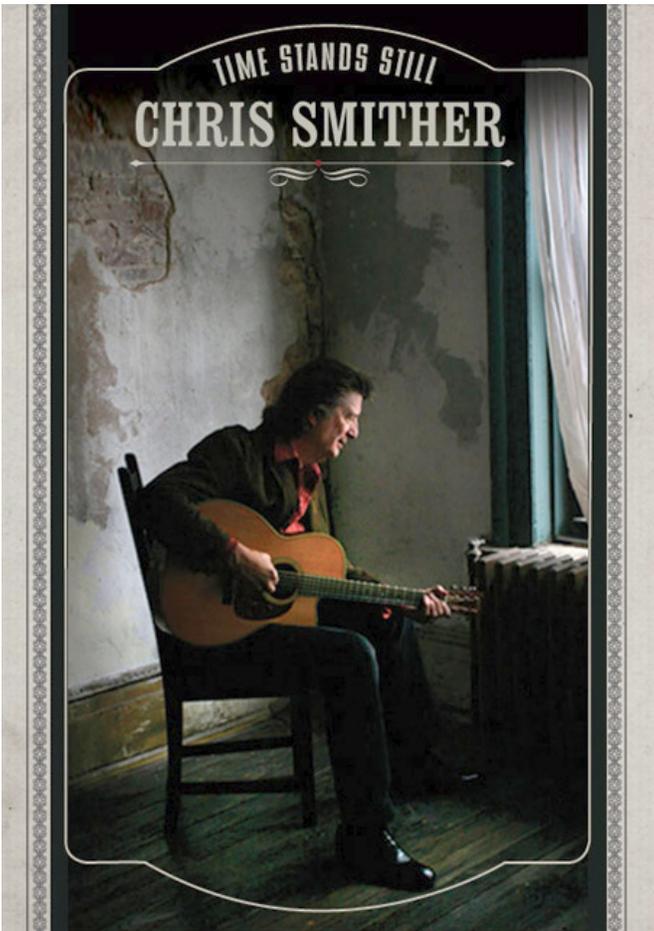
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Spring 2009- 2010 Vol 1

PO Box 30561 Lincoln, NE 68503

Chris Smither comes to LAFTA Main Stage on April 24



Legendary blues/folk guitarist **Chris Smither** rounds out the LAFTA Main Stage concert season on **Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 PM** at the 7th Street Loft, **504 South 7th St.** Chris delivers one of the most riveting live shows you're ever likely to see. Blues and musicianship at its best with the legendary folk/blues singer/songwriter from Maine. His finger-picked guitar lines are sleek, unhurried and insistent. And then there's the voice—equal parts gravel and molasses, Smither's singing sounds like a distillation of the folk and blues heroes he grew up listening to in New Orleans. Rolling Stone enthuses, "Chris Smither delivers one of the most riveting live shows you're ever likely to see. His growling vocals, badass finger picking and uniformly brilliant songs are here in spades."

"Back in the old days," muses resilient troubadour Chris Smither, "writing new songs and making new albums were just chores. My priority was, and still is, performing live. I guess I still write the songs and make the records so that I can go out and play – except that now I actually look forward to it. I've learned how to do it, and I'm very eager to get stuff recorded once I've written it." Recorded in only three days, his latest CD, **Time Stands Still**, is just the eleventh studio album of a career that now spans over four decades.

Time Stands Still (Signature Sounds/Mighty Albert) is both pensive and visceral – an album whose songs alternately ponder life's mysteries in some moments, and let them lie undisturbed in others. Featuring eight new original compositions and a song apiece from Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, and 1920s country-blues songster Frank Hutchison, *Time Stands Still's* immediate, intimate sound is the direct result of one gig, and the challenge it presented.

QUOTES:

ASSOCIATED PRESS: Smither is an American original, a product of the musical melting pot, and one of the absolute best singer-songwriters in the world.

ROLLING STONE: Bathed in the flickering glow of passing headlights and neon bar signs, Smither's roots are as blue as they come. There is plenty of misty Louisiana and Lightnin' Hopkins in Smither's weathered singing and unhurried picking. So fine.

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN: Chris Smither is America's great blues poet, a master acoustic guitarist whose music suggests the power of Son House and a wisdom informed by the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.

ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Chris Smither's songs seem so casual everyday language drawled over fine blues fingerpicking and the happy tip-tap of his shoes that it's easy to overlook how artful and deep they are. Smither is now at the peak of his creative powers.

AWARDS: Chris won the award for Outstanding Folk Act in the Boston Music Awards for 2007. He also won the 2007 Folk Alliance Awards for both **Song of the Year** ("Seems So Real") and **Contemporary Artist of the Year**. His song "Origin of Species" was selected number 42 on the list of 100 Best Songs of the Year by Rolling Stone Magazine for 2006.

Listen to him on a National Public Radio broadcast at <http://smither.com/world-cafe-live/> for a sample of his music. The show starts at 7:30 PM at the 7th Street Loft, 504 South 7th St. Regular ticket pricing of \$13 for members, \$17 for nonmembers, \$10 for students and children under 12 for \$1 applies with tickets online at www.lafta.net or at the door the evening of the performance. For more information check the web at www.lafta.net or call LAFTA at 580-8656.

Number 1 2009-2010

The LAFTA NEWSLETTER is published several times annually by the Lincoln Association for Traditional Arts, P O Box 30561, Lincoln, NE 68503-0561. LAFTA is a non-profit organization committed to the promotion of folk music and folk arts in the Lincoln area. For membership or other information, please call (402) 580-8656 or check the website at www.lafta.net.
Editor: Kerry L "Butch" Krause Supporting writers listed by column.

COMMENTS from LAFTA board president Nancy Anderson

Greetings, LAFTA supporters, and Happy Spring! This month, we will wrap up our 2009-2010 main stage season with a performance by a very talented blues guitar player and singer/songwriter, Chris Smither. I saw Chris play in New York in the early 1990s when he was promoting his album Happier Blue, and I am very excited that we were able to arrange a LAFTA appearance.

I want to say a special thanks to all of the LAFTA members and supporters who helped make our first season back at the 7th Street Loft such a success. The board has received much positive feedback about the venue, and I am pleased to announce that we will be back there again next season. I also want to thank the people at Cornhusker Place for all of their assistance and for welcoming us into their space.

At this time last year, I wrote to you about LAFTA's position as a resident artist with the non-profit Loft at the Mill organization. When we moved last summer, the Loft at the Mill Board of Directors decided to maintain the organization while the three resident artist groups (Angels Theater Company, Third Chair Chamber Players, and LAFTA) explored alternatives. After a season in which the three groups performed in separate spaces and no viable venue options for reuniting presented themselves, the Loft at the Mill Board has decided to dissolve. Thanks to LAFTA's ongoing relationship with the 7th Street Loft, this decision will not have an immediate, noticeable impact for LAFTA members. Through the generosity of all of the LAFTA supporters who contributed to our capital campaign during our 25th anniversary season, LAFTA purchased a new stage and other needed equipment that, coupled with the sound equipment that we already owned, allow us to present our performances independent of the infrastructure that we enjoyed as resident artists at the Loft at the Mill. We thank the Loft at the Mill Board of Directors and the other resident artists who, over the years, have helped bring the arts to Lincoln.

LAFTA Board of Director elections are coming up. If you are interested in running for a two-year term on the LAFTA Board, please contact us. If you are a current member, please watch for your ballot next month and be sure to vote.

The LAFTA Board is hard at work on next season's schedule. We are planning to reschedule Marley's Ghost, a highly anticipated concert on the current schedule that unfortunately had to be canceled when a band member became ill. We are planning to kick off the season in September with a Bluegrass Crusade reunion, and it's very possible that the season will end on a bluegrass note, as well. I don't want to spoil the surprises, so keep an eye out for your season brochure, membership renewal forms, and season ticket order forms this summer.

Finally, as I near the end of my second (and last) year as president of the LAFTA Board, I want to thank everyone who has made the past two seasons run smoothly. I hope that many of you can join us for the Chris Smither concert on April 24. Bring a friend or two, and introduce some new folks to what "the folk music folks" have to offer.



Many thanks to **The Mill** coffee shop for their coffee donation for the 2009-2010 LAFTA Concert Season.



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