Catie Curtis is back to the main stage Saturday, April 16

Catie Curtis will be in concert Saturday April 16 at the 7th Street Loft, 504 South 7th St, Lincoln NE at 7:30 p.m. The vivid songwriting of Catie Curtis combines insightful lyrics with addictive melodies and energy. Catie’s recordings (released on EMI, Rykodisc, Vanguard and Compass), engaging live shows and impressive touring career (in the US and Europe) have earned her rave reviews and wide recognition. Her songs have been featured on Dawson’s Creek, Felicity, Alias, Chicago Hope, and Grey’s Anatomy, as well as in several independent films. She’s toured extensively with Mary Chapin Carpenter and with the original Lilith Fair. Catie was named grand prize winner of the International Songwriting Competition, for her song “People Look Around”, co-written with Mark Erelli. In January 2009 performed at the Human Rights Campaign’s official Obama inaugural ball. In 2010, she performed at the White House. Catie is recording a brand new CD of new material in January, which will be released in the summer of 2011.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m at the 7th Street Loft. Regular ticket pricing of $13 for members, $17 for nonmembers, students with ID are $10 and children under 12 for $1 applies with tickets online at www.lata.net or at the door the evening of the performance. More information is available on the web at www.lafta.net or at 580-8656, the LAFTA phone number.

Carolyn Cruso is in house concert Thursday, April 28

Carolyn Cruso is an acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and composer. She has toured widely in both the United States and Europe, as well as producing eight CDs during that time. She is equally at home on hammered dulcimer, flute, guitar and vocals and performs a diverse array of original tunes and songs as well as traditional material. Her instrumental compositions are mainly for the hammered dulcimer and are inspired by her strong connection to nature as well as her extensive travel and the cultures she's encountered along the way. Her unusual and lyrical approach to the dulcimer especially delights audiences and has even won over curmudgeons who swore they hated hammered dulcimer!

Carolyn Cruso has been performing professionally in both the United States and Europe for two decades as a multi-instrumentalist playing hammered dulcimer, various flutes, guitar and vocals. She is now celebrating the release of her latest singer/songwriter recording, Have You Ever, which spans genres from folk to jazz to funk to pop while maintaining the focal point of Cruso’s own “elegant and sophisticated” style. Reviewers are calling it “exquisite”, “intelligent”, “elegant” and “fertile”.

Unless otherwise noted, all shows start at 7:30 p.m and artist donation is $12 at the door. For information, directions, or to reserve seats for House Concerts, please call 402-328-9844 or send an e-mail to nancyanderson1@windstream.net.

A great big LAFTA Thank You goes to THE MILL Coffee Shop for their kind coffee donation for our concerts. Stop by 800 P St in Lincoln NE for a cup of the finest and say Hi from LAFTA!
The 2011 LAFTA board election will soon be held by mail. Members will vote for board members to fill positions whose terms have expired. There is one vote per household unless two memberships have been purchased. The following are current board members running for reelection. Write-in votes are also allowed. So watch the mail and return those ballots!

Nancy Anderson is working on a master’s degree in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education with an emphasis on research methods at UNL. She has served on the LAFTA board for five years. Nancy and her husband, Tim, host LAFTA’s house concert series.

Bart Holmquist has retired from the biotechnology field only to start a new vineyard venture near Eagle. He is on the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board and teaches chemistry part time at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He moved to Lincoln in 1994 after working with several coffee houses in the Boston area. He is a past president of LAFTA and started the food concessions program at LAFTA concerts. Bart is a banjo playing bluegrass lover and uses his vineyard for occasional outdoor bluegrass concerts with touring bands during the summer months. He currently books the main stage concerts for LAFTA and has been a board member for 10 years.

Butch Krause is self employed in insurance sales. He is an active member of a local songwriters group and has participated in its showcases as well as played at the local coffee houses. Butch has attended LAFTA concerts since 1987 and has been a board member for 16 years. He currently edits the LAFTA newsletter and coordinates all media press releases. He also runs the Yahoo LAFTA group.

Dena Zimmer has been on the LAFTA board for 4 years. She is on committees working on Marketing/Membership/ByLaws, and also helps with Publicity. She enjoys the excellent variety of music presented by LAFTA and hopes to work on outreach community activities to schools and future benefit performances. She would like to continue working with the board towards the goals of promoting folk and traditional music. She has been attending LAFTA performances since its early beginnings. Her personal favorites include bluegrass and blues music, and her current goal is to learn to play the mountain dulcimer.

Daren Blythe has served for 2 years on the LAFTA board.

If you or someone you know would like to participate as a board member, please contact LAFTA to be put on the ballot. Bring your knowledge and expertise to LAFTA, and help this fine program move forward! Contact a LAFTA board member or give us a call at 580-8656 or drop us an email at laftaNE@yahoo.com.