

NEWS RELEASE

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EveningsWithSongwriter.com

Evenings with the Songwriter Features Bill Oliver

(Lockhart) Famed Austin songwriter Bill Oliver will be the featured guest for *Evenings with the Songwriter*, Tuesday, May 30, 7:00pm, at the historic Dr. Eugene Clark Library. Bill will be joined by celebrated flutist Beth Galiger, a regular partner of his musical and white-water adventures. Hosted by Lockhart songwriter Fletcher Clark, the event is free to the public, now in its seventh season on the last Tuesday of each month.

Beginning with his anthem 'Habitat' and other songs for the growing environmental movement, Bill Oliver was dubbed 'Environmental Troubadour' by TIME Magazine in 1989. His has been a stalwart voice for the celebration and preservation of Austin's Barton Springs and Texas rivers, as well as other activist causes and groups.

Born in St. Louis, imprinted by the Mississippi River, Bill's family moved to Little Rock and later Houston, where he began playing guitar in third grade, steeped in Mark Twain. Scouting, camping and hiking in East Texas forests and the Texas Hill Country made him want to be a Forest Ranger and play music: "Smokey Bear meets Chuck Berry!" Bill attended the University of Texas at Arlington, worked at a TV station in Dallas, joined a band, and hitch-hiked a lot. 'Folk-Rock' was the music, and he started writing songs in earnest.

After rafting the Mississippi River in the summer of 1968, Bill spent two years in the Army, serving in Seattle and Vietnam, traveling as a Singing Food Inspector! Moving to Austin in the mid-'70's, he became inspired by the environmental movement, writing songs and playing for

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events, schools, honky-tonks, and festivals. His all-star Otter Space Band recorded their CD 'Friend of the River', stemming from their love of the Texas River School in Austin and river events elsewhere. Charles Alexander of Huffington Post wrote, "Clever and outspoken, this folk singer and environmental activist from Austin, remains one of the planet's staunchest defenders."

"Bill uses his humorous, sometimes sardonic, lyrics to bring our attention to the precious world in which we live," said Producer/Host Fletcher Clark, long-time friend and admirer. "We have spent some fine times together on stage and on the river – frankly the best stage of all. The poignancy of Beth Galiger's flute is the perfect foil for Bill's zaniness!" Beth is also an accomplished white-water denizen, as she, Bill and Fletcher lead the Texas River School canoeing trips on the Guadalupe during the Kerrville Folk Festival.

Over sixty celebrated artists have been featured in *Evenings with the Songwriter*, including such luminaries as Shake Russell, Christine Albert, Tish Hinojosa, Vince Bell, Sara Hickman, Eric Taylor, Butch Hancock, Lisa Morales, Dana Cooper, Karen Mal, George Ensle, Shelley King, and Danny Britt. The 2017 Season will continue with Walt Wilkins, Mo McMorrow, author/producer Craig Hillis, Freddie Krc, and Claudia Nygaard; plus a return pairing of Bianca De Leon/Butch Morgan in September.

Producer Clark says, "*Evenings with the Songwriter* is not really a performance nor an interview nor a song swap nor a lecture, but elements of all. Exploring 'the art and craft of songwriting' in this way and in this oldest continually operating library building in Texas is a very different experience for these songwriters." The *Evenings* are presented to the public free of charge on the last Tuesday of the month, thanks to City of Lockhart Library Director Bertha Martinez and her staff. Support comes from local *Friends of the Song* sponsors Todd Blomerth & Patti Payne, Donaly & Clare Brice, and Robert & Esther Wilson.

Additional information available at EveningsWithSongwriter.com and on Facebook.