



Sunspot Concerts at the Lyceum

Laura Cortese

Saturday, February 4. 8 PM
\$16 advance/\$18 door

Laura Cortese boasts an energetic performance of driving fiddle, vocals, and stepdance with an original blend of Celtic music and contemporary influence. She performed at the Lyceum in November with the Four Fabulous Fiddlers to a standing room only crowd. On her return visit, she will be releasing her new CD, *Even the Lost Creek*.

Fiddle: Laura was inspired to play traditional fiddle as a teenager when she first went to renowned Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser's Valley of the Moon fiddle camp. After a few years in the Scottish fiddle club scene (as well as trips to Scotland and Cape Breton Island), she developed a truly driving Scottish fiddle style all her own and has won a number of fiddle competitions. She was the 1998 New England regional Scottish Fiddle Champion. Laura graduated in 2001 from Boston's Berklee College of Music, where she studied fiddle.



Song: Laura is increasingly being recognized as an inspiring vocalist who combines a respect and depth of knowledge of traditional folk ballads with a thoroughly modern delivery. Her solo concerts and performances with the fiddle trio Halali both feature Laura's vocals. Laura sings on Lissa Schneckenburger's solo record *A Different Game* and on her own CDs, *Hush* and the new *Even the Lost Creek*.

Dance: Laura is a great step dancer who performs regularly with Maryland's Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. She is a cast member in Footworks' two collaborative theatre shows: "The Crossing" (with bluegrass legend Tim O'Brien), which was named the "Best Concert of 2001" by New York's Irish Echo, and "SoleMates" (with the Washington, D.C., dance ensemble Step Afrika!).

Flook

With Morwenna Lasko & Jay Pun

Saturday, February 25. 8 PM. \$20 advance, \$22 door

"In the pantheon of Irish/English folk groups they don't come much more revered than Flook." - Irish Post

Flook has been touring for 10 years, but are not as well known in the U.S. as they are in Ireland and internationally. With the dynamic dual flute leads of Sarah Allen and Brian Finnegan, John Joe Kelly's incredible bodhran playing and the intricate guitar work of Ed Boyd, they present a surprising and intriguing sound. It's different from the usual fiddle-guitar-flute lineup, and continues to enthrall old and new listeners.

Morweena Lasko (fiddle) and Jay Pun (guitar) defy the boundaries of acoustic music. With Morwenna's lush melodic solos and rhythmic chopping & Jay's percussive finger-style funk guitar lines, their music surpasses eclectic.

About the Sunspot Concert Series

The Sunspot series showcases performers from the United States and around the globe, representing all styles of traditional and folk music. Sunspot's primary venue is the 130-seat Lecture Hall at The Lyceum, Alexandria's city museum. With no seat more than five rows from the stage, The Lyceum is an ideal meeting place for artists and audiences to share a unique musical experience.

**Tickets on sale at www.sunspotpro.com and at all concerts.
Shows at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St, Alexandria, Virginia**