



SUNSPOT PRODUCTION

Promoting American and World Roots Music

2414 Andorra Place
Reston, Virginia 20191

CONCERT NOTICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2005

Thank you for your attention to the following press release, which details a concert and CD release by fiddler Laura Cortese in the Sunspot series at The Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria.

EVENT LISTING

Laura Cortese, 8 pm, Saturday, Feb. 4.

Sunspot concerts at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

\$16 advance and \$18 at the door, children under 14 half price with adult.

www.sunspotpro.com or 800 404-9049.

Tickets and general information: <http://www.sunspotpro.com> or 800 404-9049

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Artist Website: <http://www.lauracortese.com>

RELEASE TEXT FOLLOWS

LAURA CORTESE

CD Release of *Even the Lost Creek*

Singer, fiddler and songwriter, Laura Cortese lights up the stage with a radiating smile, dazzling musicianship and uninhibited delight. The fiery combination of her Irish and Italian heritage delivers a unique blend of passion and humor. Cortese chops a mean fiddle behind her folk pop vocals. On her latest release, *Even the Lost Creek* (February 2006), she couples the groove and polish of urban music with universal themes of the old world.

Cortese's Irish-American grandmother first handed her a fiddle at the age of 4. Eight years later, she discovered folk music in what seems like an unlikely place, the bustling metropolis of her hometown San Francisco. "I found an exceptional community of singers, musicians and dancers at the Valley of the Moon Fiddle Camp," she says. "People from age 2 to 80 that just love making music together. It's strange to say, but I think that was the year I decided that music was IT."

In 1999, Cortese moved to Boston to attend Berklee College of Music. Over the next few years she played in several bands, including fiddle trio Halali, which she formed with two childhood friends, Hanneke Cassel and Lissa Schneckenburger. "I had never really sung solo on stage before Halali. I realized songs are an amazing way to connect to an audience." In an apartment across the street from Berklee College, Cortese set out to record her debut album *Hush* in 2002. *Hush* showcases 12 tracks of pop-inspired arrangement that captures the raw sincerity of traditional Celtic music.

After college, Cortese traveled from coast to coast, from Nashville to Montreal, performing with musicians at the forefront of the burgeoning folk scene. At a late night party in 2004, Cortese found a rare chemistry with Zack Hickman (producer of *Even the Lost Creek*) and Jesse Harper (vocalist with Old School Freight Train). Cortese remembers, "We sat around singing songs after a show at Boston's Club Passim. We sang everything from jazz standard 'Summer Time' to Otis Redding's 'Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay'. The three of us huddled as close as we could." That night hinted at the sound they would generate when Cortese's exquisite vocals met laid back swing, traditionally influenced folk song writing and a kicking rhythm section.



Even the Lost Creek plays like a late night party, intimate, compelling and spontaneous. On this collection of songs Cortese weaves her own writing with offerings from some of the folk scenes most poetic song writers (Kristen Andreassen, Josh Ritter, Michael Tarbox). From the first note of the rock influenced organ on "Blow the Candle out," you are whisked away to the nighttime rendezvous of young lovers. The title track, the sleepy "Even the Lost Creek," pairs late night philosophy and a serious gypsy influenced fiddle solo. Instrumentally, the driving "Mulqueen's" showcases virtuosic Celtic fiddling. The party is complete with Cortese's grooving cover of 80's pop song "Just Like Heaven" (The Cure).

For *Even the Lost Creek*, Cortese and her band set aside a week to rehearse and record, cooking, eating and sleeping at the Signature Sounds studios in Pomfret, CT. "Zack and I wanted to capture the synergy that people develop when they live and work together. After recording for five 13-hour days straight, we recorded the final album cut, 'Night Train to Chelsea,' in one take. Riding on that high, Zack, Jesse, Mark Thayer (engineer for *Even the Lost Creek*) and I stayed up playing and singing until the sun came up."

Cortese draws on the old traditions to inspire her dynamic, contemporary folk sound. With fiddle and passion in hand she continues to light up the stage. Visit her web site at <http://www.lauracortese.com>.

Saturday, February 4, 8:00 pm at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St, Alexandria. Tickets are \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door, and children under 14 are half price with an adult. Reservations can be made at www.sunspotpro.com or by calling 800 404-9049.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Upcoming shows include Old School Freight Train, an innovative acoustic band who have just released their second CD on Dave Grisman's Acoustic Disc label, a CD release concert by fiddler Laura Cortese, Aoife Clancy, former lead singer of Cherish the Ladies, a return engagement by Cathie Ryan and a solo performance by Scottish singer Jim Malcolm of Old Blind Dogs.

ABOUT THE SUNSPOT CONCERT SERIES

The Sunspot concert series showcases musicians from the United States and around the globe, representing all styles of traditional and contemporary folk music.

Sunspot shows feature musicians who often perform as part of larger groups in larger venues, who are working on developing an independent career after leaving another group or who are just beginning their careers. Each show is presented in an intimate setting that allows the performers and audiences to enjoy a close connection not possible in larger venues.

Sunspot's first show was in March, 2005. So far, the series has hosted performances by Karan Casey, a founding member of the Irish supergroup Solas, Cathie Ryan, former lead vocalist for Cherish the Ladies, Tony Trischka, the American banjo master who was Bela Fleck's teacher, and John Doyle, also a founding member of Solas who has gone on to play with Eileen Ivers, Tim O'Brien, Linda Thompson and Liz Carroll.

The concerts take place in Old Town Alexandria, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Old Town offers several locations that are ideal for acoustic music performances hosting audiences from 70 to 300. Several of the buildings date from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, and lend their historic atmosphere to the presentation of traditional music. Sunspot's primary venue is the 130-seat Lecture Hall at The Lyceum, Alexandria's city museum. With no seat more than six rows from the stage, The Lyceum provides an ideal meeting place for artists and audiences to share a unique musical experience.

For additional information, visit the Sunspot web site at <http://www.sunspotpro.com>.