



CLAUDIA SCHMIDT

[Performs at the Couth Buzzard, April 19](#)

If you listened to the Prairie Home Companion show in the late '70s and early '80s you certainly knew [Claudia Schmidt](#), one of Garrison Keillor's regular performers. She was ubiquitous, a folk, jazz and blues singer, poet, and multi-instrumentalist – she plays guitar, mountain dulcimer, and quirky instruments such as the pianola. A Michigan native, Claudia has toured North America and Europe for over four decades, recorded over twenty albums of mostly original songs, duo albums with [Sally Rogers](#), and also made a name for herself in musical theater around the Midwest.

Then she disappeared from the touring scene for about ten years, still performing locally, but running a bed-and-breakfast and later a restaurant with her husband in Michigan. "I wanted to do some other things," she said. "Specialization is for the insects, you know. That is still my motto."

Several years ago she gave up her day job and returned to full-time performing. Living in Minneapolis, where she still has lots of fans, she finds that she has to reintroduce herself to a younger generation of listeners and promoters. "I thought people would remember me. I thought I could step away for a while and then step back," she said. "I realized I really missed the music thing and wanted to be doing that more and I had the rude awakening that I sort of had to go to the back of the line."

Claudia's work is "a quirky and wonderful hodge-podge (her word!) of music,

poetry, story, laughter, drama, and celebrating the moment... what you get is a unique look at the world from someone who says what she sees with clarity, humor, and wonder." Garrison Keillor said "when Claudia sings a song, it stays sung." She recently produced two new albums, "[Bend in the River](#)," a collection of songs from her past CDs, and "[New Whirled Order](#)," a collection of new songs with old musical friends; a single, "[Timeless Love](#)," a song she wrote for a new movie being produced in Minnesota; and a new collaborative album with Sally Rogers, "[Evidence of Happiness](#)."

With her infectious energy and joy Claudia Schmidt comes to Seattle on Sunday, April 19, at 7:30pm, to perform for the Pacific Northwest Folklore Society in an intimate setting at the [Couth Buzzard Bookstore and Espresso Buono Café](#), 8310 Greenwood Ave N. Seating is limited, reservations are necessary – email pnwfolk@pnwfolklore.org , or phone 206-367-0475 (leave a message); reservations will be held until 7:15pm. A \$15 donation is requested.

[Stewart Hendrickson](#)