

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2012

Natalie Merchant Lends Her Voice in Song to Defend Our Waters in Support of a Ban on Shale Gas Hydrofracking in New York State and Beyond. The Southern Tier Rises Against Hydrofracking.

What: A Very Special Evening of Music Featuring Internationally Acclaimed Singer-Songwriter Natalie Merchant and Her Band to support the fight against hydrofracking.

www.nataliemerchant.com

Very Special Guests: the Horse Flies, www.thehorseflies.com

Special Guest Speaker: biologist, author, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D. www.steingraber.com

When: Saturday March 10th. Show at 7:00 pm, Doors at 6:00 pm

Where: The Newly Restored Forum Theatre, Binghamton NY: 236 Washington Street 13901. Box Office 607-778-6626. Information 607.778.2480, gobroomecounty.com/forum

Who: Presented by the Finger Lakes CleanWaters Initiative, Inc. Presenters of the “Big Splash” Concert Series in 2011. FingerLakesCleanWaters.org

Why: In support of a ban on hydrofracking in New York State and beyond. There is no safe way to extract shale gas by hydrofracking. Binghamton and the Southern Tier of New York are on the front line in the fight against hydrofracking in New York State.

How: Made possible through the generous support of Heinz Award recipient Dr. Sandra Steingraber who has dedicated her prize to the fight against hydrofracking. www.steingraber.com. Ms. Natalie Merchant also contributes her considerable talent, time, and energy.

Background: Shale gas hydrofracking is perhaps the most perfect technology ever invented to poison our land, air, and water. The Finger Lakes CleanWaters Initiative is dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of the precious and still largely clean waters of New York State. Because water rises as vapor into the air, falls as rain and snow, and flows both on and below the Earth’s surface, we see ourselves as stewards of the planet at large. Our focus is event-based education, and we harness the considerable power of live music presentation to illuminate and educate the public at large about the importance of clean water and a healthy environment.

“Hydrofracking poses the greatest threat to clean drinking water in New York and Pennsylvania right now. Our opposition to this threat is imperative. I hope people can come to the concert to show their concern.” --Natalie Merchant

*“Fracking is wrong. Fracking is unmitigatable. Sooner or later, steel and concrete disintegrates. Sooner or later, gas wells open portals of contamination between drinking water aquifers and the toxic materials held in the bedrock below. Doing fracking “right” simply means building time bombs with longer fuses. There are no places in New York and no children in New York that we are willing to sacrifice.”
--Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., Biologist*

“Hydrofracking for shale gas is a failed technology with respect to the environment. You cannot frack safely.” --Chris Tate, BME

Natalie Merchant

After rising to fame at the helm of the popular folk-rock band 10,000 Maniacs, Natalie Merchant enjoyed even greater success as a solo artist during the mid-'90s. Her literate, socially conscious songs established her among the preeminent women in pop music. Her incredibly successful solo debut, the self-produced, "Tigerlily" is widely considered a pop masterpiece. Merchant launched a folk tour in 2000, with members of progressive folk band the Horse Flies joining her on the road. She then returned to her solo career with "Motherland". Two years later, Merchant left Elektra's roster and formed her own independent label, Myth America, in order to issue "House Carpenter's Daughter", a collection of traditional and contemporary folk music inspired by the 2000 tour. She released "Retrospective 1995-2005" which highlights her work over that period. More recently 2010's "Leave your sleep" has been described as "sheer genius" and "Gentle, lush and magnificent."

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D

Biologist, mother, ecologist, author Sandra Steingraber is an internationally recognized authority on the environment, links to cancer, and human health. Her numerous honors include the prestigious Heinz Award in 2011, and she is a past Ms. Magazine Woman of the Year. Often described as the "New Rachel Carson," cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber has devoted her life's work to understanding the ways in which chemical contaminants in air, water, and food endanger human health. Always reminding us that environmental issues are personal, Dr. Steingraber has just published *Raising Elijah: Protecting Our Children in an Age of Environmental Crisis*, which explores how chemical trespass and climate change prevent parents from carrying out their two most fundamental duties: to protect children from harm and to provide for their future.

The Horse Flies

With a love of both the traditional and the modern, The Flies have consistently explored the intersection of the two to create a musical world all their own. Part trance-inducing minimalism, achieved through a neo-primitive approach to fiddle music, and part folk-rock American gothic, achieved through emotive singing and haunting, original songs, The Flies' music is recognized for its intensity, quirkiness, poetry, and skill. The Horse Flies released their eighth album, "Until the Ocean" in 2008.

The Finger Lakes CleanWaters Initiative endorses the work of these objective, independent scientists, engineers, physicians, and lawyers. Drs. Steingraber and Howarth are our Scientific Advisors.

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Helen and David Slottje, Attny's, Community Environmental Defense Council
www.cedclaw.org

Debra Rogers, Economist, Founder of the Energy Policy Forum www.energypolicyforum.com

The Citizen's Advocacy Group Frack Action will be on hand to answer questions and distribute educational materials in the lobby area before, after, and during the show.
www.frackaction.com, Ana Tinsly ana@frackaction.com, 646.331.4765

Tickets: www.ticketmaster.com 1 800-745-3000. Forum Theatre Box Office, 607 778-6626

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