



## Tidewater Arts Outreach

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CHESAPEAKE HOUSE CONCERT TO BENEFIT TIDEWATER ARTS OUTREACH

Tim and Anna Bellars are opening their home to music-lovers in Hampton Roads for a house concert on Saturday, May 17. The concert artists are the bi-coastal trio known as Big Wide Grin. They are singer/songwriters who play eclectic, roots, rock, blues and folk-inspired on three guitars and a variety of percussion instruments, and accompanied by three incredible voices. Their three-part harmonies are exceptional.

#### House Concert Information:

#### featured artists:

Singer/Songwriter Trio  
BIG WIDE GRIN  
(Elaine Dempsey, Lawrence Lambert, and Karl Werne)

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Two Performances

4 and 8 pm

\$25 donation

A private house concert in Chesapeake, VA

Hosted by Tim and Anna Bellars

812 Loch Island Drive, Chesapeake 23322 (in Riverwalk)

Contact 548-2888 / [annabellars@yahoo.com](mailto:annabellars@yahoo.com) for tickets/information

proceeds benefit TIDEWATER ARTS OUTREACH

sharing the healing power of the arts with people in Hampton Roads with special needs

[www.TWartsoutreach.org](http://www.TWartsoutreach.org)

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#### ABOUT BIG WIDE GRIN....

#### ~Discography:

"Big Wide Holiday Grin" (2007)

"Live" (2003)

"Live Simple Breathe Deep" (2000)

The bi-coastal trio of Elaine Dempsey, Lawrence Lambert & Karl Werne, hailing from California and Virginia, bring together diverse backgrounds of experience, study, music, and theater. The result is a rich, soulful blend of character and harmony, so deep and dynamic, it creates spontaneous singing, combustible happiness and a roomful of BIG WIDE GRINs.

Usually on the move, they are no strangers to national tours and folk festivals; they have shared the stage with such artists as Janis Ian and Harriett Schock, and have toured with Legendary blues man Keb' Mo'. Their debut CD, "Live Simple, Breathe Deep" (released under the name "E.L.K."), was produced by Clayton Gibb (Keb' Mo' band) and features Mark Andes (Spirit, Canned Heat), Rob Hooper (Jimmie Dale Gilmore), Cha Cha Friedken (Keb' Mo' band) and Eddie Williams.

Big Wide Grin's "Live" release is a collection of original compositions and cover material (cutting across a wide swath of artists, from Steve Earle to Sly & The Family Stone), that have become trademark favorites of their live performances. They released a stunning collection of holiday music in December 2007, to great reviews and a sold-out first issue.

#### ABOUT HOUSE CONCERTS....

House concerts have been happening in living rooms around the country for years. They are a music-loving generation's answer to smoky bars and ear-splitting amplification used to cover crowd noise. The Bellars' engaged Big Wide Grin for a Saturday night. They clear out their living room furniture, set-up a stage, a sound system and chairs, and assemble an audience for an evening of acoustic music. Very similar to a coffee house setting, only in \*my\* house. All monetary donations go to pay for the performers and to benefit Tidewater Arts Outreach.

~Format:

For each show there will be two sets of music, with dessert and coffee served at the intermission.

~General information:

- Advance reservations required
- No smoking inside the house
- No alcohol
- Mature children only
- Doors open 30 minutes prior to the show
- Please arrive no earlier than 45 minutes and no later than 10 minutes prior to show time

~How to make reservations:

There will be seating available for 60 people at each show. Reservations will be taken on a first come /first served basis and all are welcome. Collection of donations in advance will be required to confirm attendance. E-mail [tbellars@yahoo.com](mailto:tbellars@yahoo.com) and we'll go from there.

~Parking / Car Pooling:

Please carpool if you can; this will alleviate parking problems (and minimize your carbon footprint).

~Accessibility:

There are several steps to get into the house, but once inside, the concert area and the bathroom are wheelchair accessible. There will be plenty of strong backs present so there should be no problem for anyone to attend. Please give us advanced notice if you are a wheelchair user!

\*To cut down on costs, I do all mailing electronically. Feel free to forward this message to anyone you know who would be interested in these concerts. If would prefer to receive this message at a different e-mail address...or not at all...please send me a message to that effect.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Elaine Dempsey:

Born on the Mississippi, raised on the James, educated on the Appomattox and the Boneyard; Elaine has lived most of her life on the the Chesapeake and San Francisco Bays. She moved to the San Francisco Bay area from her home in Virginia with a desire and dedication to write. As a singer, songwriter and performer Elaine blends a background of folk, rock, gospel and blues to create a dynamic vocal and acoustic guitar style truly her own. Her music has received international airplay and won repeated recognition in various national songwriting contests. Her musical guides have included: KebÕ MoÕ, Harriet Schock, Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, Karl Werne, Lawrence Lambert, Janis Ian, Rev. Ann Jefferson, Anne Lamott, John Haley-Walker, Allowyn Price, Clayton Gibb, Bill Spooner and Jackson-Ray-Charles-Kendal-Brown-Cat.

Lawrence Lambert

Lawrence Lambert: Raised on a farm in rural Virginia, Lambert started singing as a child with his twin brother and older twin brother and sister. Although the group could never replace the "Jackson Five," it was a great way to spend those quiet nights in Pungo, Virginia. Music has always been a big part of Lambert's life. Early piano lessons lead to the tenor sax and finally the show choir in high school. He found his voice again and the power of a well written song. Lambert continued to pursue his interests in music and theater at the University of Virginia. Although Lambert has developed the nickname "the

Voice" for his unique vocal style; he wants nothing more than to write the kind of music that 'helps someone to get over that broken heart; music that will make a difference and make the world better place.' But, if you asked his mother, she would say that he should sing more in church.

Karl Werne

Karl Werne: Karl Werne has been entertaining the Hampton Roads area of Virginia Beach since he was 16 years old. Eight years with The Lewis McGehee Group and four years with his own Instant Karma have made Karl a local favorite with his versatile guitar work and smooth hypnotic vocals. Highlights of those years include touring as the opening act for Bruce Hornsby's Grammy winning 'The Way It Is Tour' and numerous recordings still receiving airplay. When not on the road with BWG, Karl can be heard these days playing with saxophonist Eddie Williams and electric guitarist Curtis Eley.

Website:

<http://www.bigwidegrin.com>

#### ABOUT TIDEWATER ARTS OUTREACH:

Tidewater Arts Outreach is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to bring music and arts to hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters and other facilities throughout Hampton Roads. These performances and programs promote human interaction, happiness and healing for people who have limited access to the arts due to health, economic or social circumstances. In 2007, more than 4,000 people were reached through 161 Tidewater Arts Outreach programs. Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of empathy and caring in the music and arts community, and more than 200 artists have participated in its programs.