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Volume 13 – Edition 4

**HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – May 2016**

**Welcome**

Welcome to our May newsletter.

**HGA John Denver Tribute Weekend**

Our tribute weekend will be held on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> October at CYC The Island in Cowes (Phillip Island). The address is 41-53 Church St Cowes 3922. It is approximately 2 hours drive from Melbourne airport. <http://theisland.cyc.org.au/>

Cost is \$87.00 per person for the weekend. We have three sleeping cabins, a kitchen/activities room, BBQ, and they will also provide a fire pit for our 'campfire'.

Food Kitty is \$40.00 per person for all meals. The Victorian people will provide the casseroles for the Friday night's meal.

To secure your place, we will require a \$40 deposit (food kitty). The deposit can be paid directly into my account;

BSB: 733-039

ACC: 542649

Name: Mrs Janette Frawley

Please enter JD + your name in the description so I know who has paid, and follow it up with an email to [jefrawley@bigpond.com](mailto:jefrawley@bigpond.com).

**Fundraiser for ARCC**

Our fundraiser this year will benefit Australian Raptor Care and Conservation. Please check the website for information about the work that Peggy McDonald does in this area and how the money we raise goes toward the ongoing work with raptors in Australia.

<http://www.australianraptorcareandconservation.com/>

I am looking for ideas for a fundraiser to raise funds for Australian Raptor Care and Conservation. I think the silent auction has run its race for the time being, so I am looking at a simple way of raising those much needed funds. I have thought about a 'mystery box' second prize for the raffle. Only I would know what is inside the box, which might be fun, although I would encourage you all to donate something that would be appropriate, if possible. What are your thoughts?

We would also welcome cash donations.

**On the Road Quilt (Raffle – 2016)**

The quilt is almost completed and it will be the first prize in our annual raffle.

More details about ticket sales will be available later in the year.

**Jimmy Fong – Radio Interview**

Jimmy will be interviewed by Rita Hartney on **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm (AEST)**

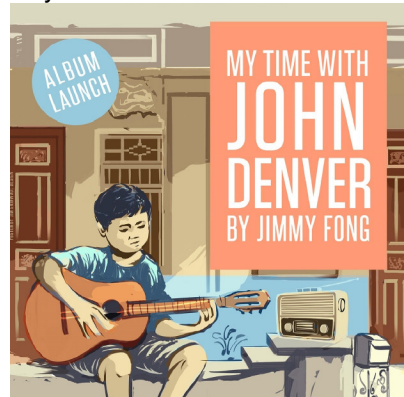
Tune into Casey FM 97.7.

You can download the Radio Australia app onto your smartphone to quickly access the station.

**HGA Website/MTWJD CDs available for sale**

<http://hgavic.wix.com/hgavic>

In collaboration with Jimmy Fong, we are now able to sell his CDs through the HGA website. Please check out Jimmy's story and photos, including his personal photos of the time he met and performed with John Denver in Malaysia in 1994. We have included some sample tracks for you to listen to. CDs are AUD\$25.00 each, including postage and handling. The CDs are also available to US purchasers. For our Canadian, British, and European customers, please email me on [hga.vic@gmail.com](mailto:hga.vic@gmail.com) for details. Transactions are securely handled by PayPal.



**Jimmy will donate a portion of all CD sales made through the HGA website.**

**Please make your Christmas list and start ordering.**

**Live from the Divide**

Here's a link to a live show Pete Huttlinger taped back in August in Bozeman, MT. The show is "Live From The Divide" and airs on public radio. It aired this past February. Click the link to listen to the one hour show.

<https://beta.prx.org/stories/170964>

**Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts/Fundraiser**  
**A message from Willie Hoever!**

WILL YOU HELP US TO HELP KIDS?

*'I would so much like young people to have a sense of the gift that they are. Not many of them feel like that.'* John Denver

If you are a fan of John Denver, you surely share the passion he had to make a difference in the lives of young people.

Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts (RMFPA) couldn't be more driven to see to it that John's mission in this regard is carried on for generations to come. Our 501 c(3) charity was founded in an effort to inspire, encourage, and support kids of all ages who wish to pursue music, whether it be as a hobby or as a profession. Since forming in the latter part of 2015, RMFPA has already secured a partnership with the Colorado Department of Education for the purpose of creating live performance opportunities for students. Exciting and enriching projects are underway and will be unveiled later this year in Dillon and Aspen, Colorado respectively. In order for RMFPA to expand in ways beyond ours and John's wildest dreams, your help is greatly needed.

Since this year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John's death, we felt that it would be appropriate to ask for a small donation of (USD)\$19. Your generous, tax-deductible contribution will, without a doubt, go a long way in helping RMFPA help countless kids across the nation.

To donate, log on to our website [www.rockymountainrmfpa.org](http://www.rockymountainrmfpa.org) and click on the DONATE tab at the top of the page. It will take you to a page where you can make a secure payment with any major credit card through PayPal.

Many, many thanks for your financial support. We appreciate it greatly and know that your kindness will come back to you tenfold.



**RMFPA T-Shirts Available**

Check out the website if you want to look like Frankie and Wolfgang! Please purchase a T-Shirt, take a selfie and I will publish your photo in our

newsletter!

<http://www.rockymountainfpa.org/donate>



**Back Home Again**

Tom Becker formerly from the New Christy Minstrels and his band are performing their 'Back Home Again' tribute to John Denver concert next week in Waynesboro, VA. Tickets are available <https://waynetheatre.ticketforce.com/order/tickets.asp?p=68&backurl=default.asp>



The Wildlife Center of Virginia, a leading teaching and research hospital for native wildlife, has a big weekend of music and celebration coming up on the first weekend in June, and the public is invited...The festive weekend will culminate on **Sunday, June 5 at 3:00 p.m. at the Wayne Theater in Waynesboro**, with a very special and very significant musical presentation – "Back Home Again" – A Tribute to John Denver, featuring Tom Becker -- According to Center President Clark, "John Denver's music has been very inspirational to me throughout my adult life, helping me to make the decision to leave teaching and dedicate my career to conservation." Clark was more than just another John Denver fan, however; he was well acquainted with the superstar, having first met the singer in 1980 at a White House reception hosted by President Jimmy Carter.

Clark and Denver had ongoing contact for many years, sharing an interest in such conservation issues as the protection of public lands in Alaska and the world's oceans, and the work of the National Wildlife Federation, in which Clark played a leadership role for more than 20 years.



Read more: <http://augustafreepress.com/clarkfest-wildlife-center-virginia-fete-founder/>

For more information about Tom's future performances, please check out his website <http://www.johndenvertribute.net/schedule.htm>

### **German Club Newsletter**

We have changed the provider for the club newsletter (English version, no changes for the German one) we are sending out occasionally --- in case you are interested, you can register by sending an email to [johndenverclub-request@freelists.org](mailto:johndenverclub-request@freelists.org) with 'subscribe' in the Subject field OR by visiting our list page at <http://www.freelists.org/list/johndenverclub> or by registering via our website at <http://johndenverclub.org/index.php/en/johndenver-newsletter.html>

### **Chris Westfall – Summer performances**

Chris Westfall's Summertime Newsletter... May 2016

Here comes summer, and an added bonus to the beautiful weather is the chance to see outdoor concerts, and especially those by our friend, Chris Westfall! He's got five very different performances scheduled... maybe you can catch one? Or two? Or...!

June 11th, Saturday, at 6:00 pm join Chris for "Magic, Moonlight, Music!" , a unique outdoor house concert 'round the campfire. ("Activities" begin at 6:00 with the music at 7:00.) Bring a chair, and some picnic-type food to share with the group... and the s'mores fixing will be provided. Tickets for this show are \$10 and reservations are required for this rain or shine event! Please contact [cwhouseconcert@gmail.com](mailto:cwhouseconcert@gmail.com) to secure your spot. 100 Three Bridge Road, Shamong, NJ 08088 (NOTE! Google Maps and GPSs tend to like "100 3 Bridge Road" as your destination point!)

July 16th, Saturday, at 7:00 pm, "Head For The Mountains" as Chris returns for a record breaking 13th appearance at Raystown Lake Seven Points Amphitheater. Located on the shores of the lake with a breathtaking view of the Allegheny Mountains is a show you don't want to miss! Please contact [srose312@embarqmail.com](mailto:srose312@embarqmail.com) for more information, and for directions and more about Raystown Lake, visit [www.nab.usace.army.mil/](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/). Donations will gratefully be accepted. The venue is located at 6145 Seven Points Road, Heston, PA 16647.

July 22nd, Friday, at 7:00 pm, Chris makes his debut at the Horseshoe Lake Outdoor Bandshell in Succasunna, NJ. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and a few snacks and enjoy a fantastic evening of music. In case of rain, the event will be relocated to the nearby Investors Bank Theater. Both venues are located at 72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna, NJ. This is a free event! Check the

website [www.roxburyartsalliance.org](http://www.roxburyartsalliance.org) for more information.

July 31st, Sunday, at 7:30 pm, Chris is most excited to be returning to Bethany Beach, DE for a 6th performance as he "Heads to the Sea at Bethany"! This spectacular bandstand performance is free, but weather dependent. Located near the towns of Rehoboth Beach and Ocean City, Bethany is a beautiful seaside town. Why don't you come for the weekend? For more information, check

[www.townofbethanybeach.com](http://www.townofbethanybeach.com). The venue is located on Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE, 19930

August 20th, Saturday, Chris will be the featured performer at the High Bridge Summer Concerts in the Commons. There will be an opening act at 6:00 pm and Chris will take the stage at 7:00 pm. The Borough Commons Park is located on Main Street/Route 513 High Bridge, NJ. (For those familiar with the town of Clinton, High Bridge is only minutes away.) Bring a cooler, a blanket or chair, and good vibes for sunshine as this free event is weather dependent. For more information, please email [ny.ferry@aol.com](mailto:ny.ferry@aol.com).

At each of Chris' performances, there is a merchandise table where you can purchase CDs and often a few surprises! And are you on Facebook? Chris has an "Artist's Page" which you can "Like" and keep up with all the latest news. For more updates, you can also visit [chriswestfall.com](http://chriswestfall.com). And don't forget about YouTube where you can have your own mini-concert any time you want! The best is being able to hear Chris live...and if you ever have an event or venue where you'd like to hear him perform, you can connect with him through his website or Facebook.

<http://www.chriswestfall.com/home.html>

Thank you so very much for supporting Chris and his music. YOU are the reason he does what he does! Hope to see you at a show sometime very soon. Have a wonderful summer, and make sure it's full of music!

Your friend, Suzanne from NJ

### **Chris Bannister**

Chris Bannister has a full listing of his forthcoming John Denver tribute concerts on his website; <http://www.chrisbannistermusic.com/events/>

### **Mark Cormican**

Mark will be performing at the **Castle Canyon State Park** 2989 South State Hwy 89, Franktown Colorado on **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> July at 6:30pm**.

Donations are appreciated.

Check out Mark's website for his other scheduled performances.

<http://markcormican.com/schedule/>



### **Rocky Mountain High Concert**

#### **John Denver: A Rocky Mountain High Concert with the Colorado Symphony - September 10 at Boettcher Hall in Denver**

We're excited to announce John Denver: A Rocky Mountain High Concert with the Colorado Symphony, featuring audio and video performances by John Denver backed by members of his former band, with the Colorado Symphony. Saturday, September 10 2016 7.30 at Boettcher Concert Hall.

Tickets available through Colorado Symphony Subscription through July 31. Single tickets on sale August 1, 10 am.

#### **Andres Lopera, conductor**

Musical legend John Denver is honored in a special concert celebration with your Colorado Symphony this fall. See and hear two-time Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter and Poet Laureate of Colorado John Denver on video performing in a concert spectacular featuring archival video footage of Denver performing classic songs backed by live performances from former members of his band with full symphony orchestra. This concert is an innovative musical treat and unforgettable tribute. Hear John Denver's voice, see vintage John Denver video performances, hear stories of John Denver told by old friends. The Concert will include hit songs spanning his career and honor Denver's memory and music.

#### **Jim Curry's Newsletter/Concerts**

Jim Curry's newsletter has been posted (click link below) Jim and Anne put together an excellent newsletter regularly. It also includes a link to Anne's blog, which is always fun to read, plus a full listing of where they are appearing in concert. Great news again – Jim and Anne will be travelling on a couple of Holland America ships during April.

Check out Jim and Anne's website at <http://www.jimcurrymusic.com/> for details of their upcoming concerts.

#### **American Veterans Radio**

TUNE IN: [www.avradio.org](http://www.avradio.org)

iPhone - <http://apple.co/1bxUvTh>

Google Play - <http://bit.ly/1E5iUvz>

TuneIn Radio - [bit.ly/1EhuOqo](http://bit.ly/1EhuOqo)

American Veterans Radio is honored to feature the wonderful music of John Denver. Please join Willie From Dillon 4:00 pm ET. Don't forget...Willie has set a goal of 1,000 new fans/listeners, so tell every JD fan you know!

We'll be playing the song list as suggested by Darcey Anne who will join us as co-host to help me into the songs..she has chosen some great songs and we may even have a guest or two...ya never know!

Time Zone Chart:  
4 - 6pm Eastern time

- 3 - 5pm Central time
- 2 - 4pm Mountain time
- 1 - 3pm Pacific time
- 12noon - 2pm Alaskan time
- 5 - 7pm Chilean time
- 9 - 11pm UK time
- 10 - 12Mid European time
- Next Morning
- 5 - 7am Japan time

**6 - 8am Melbourne, Sydney, Australia time**

8 - 10am New Zealand time

If you need to convert any other time click this link:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

Here is the link to the radio player:

[http://apps.streamlicensing.com/player-popup.php?sid=160&stream\\_id=4961](http://apps.streamlicensing.com/player-popup.php?sid=160&stream_id=4961)

Here is the link to the tunein player:

<http://tunein.com/radio/American-Veterans-Radio-s215261/>

Here is the link to the chat picture:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10209479768371794&set=gm.270061436669054&type=3>

If you can make it to the chat that is wonderful. If you only have time to listen in that is very good too. The beauty of being an ONLINE concert, is that people can listen in from anywhere, enjoying the music of John Denver.

#### **Transcript from AVR 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Playlist for the May 14, 2016 Online JD Concert

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Intro of the show

In A Far Away Land sung by John Denver.

"All of the artists you will be hearing are from Down Under plus a few others. This is Stephen R Cheney with A Country Girl in Paris," ~DJ Willie J Hoovers.

A Country Girl in Paris sung by Stephen R Cheney written by John Denver.

"This is Damien Leith with Annie's Song," ~DJ Willie J Hoovers.

Annie's song sung by Damien Leith written by John Denver.

"I forgot to mention that A Country Girl in Paris was written for Cassandra," ~DJ Willie.

High Wide and Handsome sung by John Denver written by Chuck Pyle.

"I have someone else from Australia, well not really from Australia as he is from Malaysia or the Philippines but lives in Australia this is Jimmy Fong with Matthew," ~DJ Willie.

Matthew sung by Jimmy Fong written by John Denver.



Interview with Janette Frawley.

"It's nice to see that you're doing a show to Down Under today," ~Janette.

"Yes, it is," ~ DJ Willie.

"I was asked to organize the JD celebration Down Under and have done so since 2001. Our weekend was based on the campfire in Aspen which has been maintained since we started. We have not always had a campfire as such, but we have always sat together in a circle. We have an auction to raise money for a good cause," ~Janette.

"I received a CD from you some time ago. I was surprised to find so many tribute artists from Australia on it," ~DJ Willie.

"Yes there are many Australian tribute artists, though someone of them do not have CDs out," ~Janette.

"I see that you changed the website for the Higher Ground Australian page to include a link to the Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts website," ~DJ Willie.

"We wanted to do that," ~Janette.

"Do you have any plans coming up?" ~DJ Willie.

"We have our JD celebration coming up in October in Victoria," ~Janette.

"I heard that John was only at the Sydney Opera House once," ~DJ Willie.

"He was there in 1977 and may have been there more times. He wrote the anthem Sing Australia for our bicentennial celebration," ~ Janette.

Sing Australia sung and written by John Denver.

"Sing Australia that was not the live version, but the recorded version. Let's continue with Janette," ~DJ Willie.

"I tried to get to see John in concert. I was sitting in a tree trying to watch the concert from outside the venue, but you can only do that for so long. I climbed down and with a hole in the fence was able to watch the concert. I wanted to see John in concert again, however, I always had something going on that I couldn't," ~Janette.

"Thank you for maintaining the Higher Ground website. Thank you for taking the time to be with us today," ~DJ Willie.

"Thank you for all that you do with these concerts," ~Janette.

"This song was requested by Janette and I thought I would play this for her. Eagles and Horses sung by Jimmy Fong in dedication to Janette," ~DJ Willie.

Eagles and Horses sung by Jimmy Fong written by Joe Henry and John Denver.

"Even when we have technical difficulties, the podcast is still recording so always stay tuned and

I will get the show back as quick as I can," ~DJ Willie.

Trevor Knight with The Eagle and the Hawk written by Mike Taylor and John Denver.

Perhaps Love sung by Peter Brocklehurst written by John Denver.

Some Days are Diamonds sung by Stephen R Cheney written by Dick Feller.

"I want to talk a little bit about the foundation. It is geared towards high school students. We are trying to put together an orchestra of the best of the best of students from the state of Colorado at the moment. Hopefully we will have a good size orchestra put together. Go to our page at <http://www.rmfp.org> and check out the page. We have had so much positive reaction to this.

Everyone is so excited. If you can help us with a donation please do so. Any help we can get would be greatly appreciated the best way to keep John's music alive is to introduce it to kids," ~DJ Willie.

Still The One For Me sung by Cassandra Denver.

Back Home Again sung by Bevan Gardiner written by John Denver.

"Please put your hands together to welcome my next guest and my friend. This is Bevan Gardiner from New Zealand," ~DJ Willie.

"Hi Willie! Thanks for having me back on the show," ~Bevan.

"of course. By the way, congratulations on your son. It is the reason you couldn't come to Aspen in 2014," ~DJ Willie.

"My son, Lucas James Gardiner, is 22 months now nearly 2 years old," ~Bevan.

"Can you get your son to say hi to us?" ~DJ Willie.

"Lucas do want to say hi to the people? "Hey" ~Lucas screaming.

"How did you get started with John's music?" ~DJ Willie.

"He has been an influence in my life since I was young," ~Bevan.

"What is your disability?" ~DJ Willie.

"I am sight impaired," ~Bevan.

Flying For Me song by Bevan Gardiner written by John Denver in dedication to the people who were killed in the Challenger space flight explosion.

"Bevan will be coming to Aspen in 2017," ~DJ Willie.

"I can't wait to be there Willie. Georgie Daniel has been touring with us because my original duettist was getting ready to have a baby," ~Bevan.

"Thank you so much for joining us today Bevan. I appreciate that." ~DJ Willie.

"It was great to be here," ~Bevan.



Side note: The interviews were very interesting, but I had trouble keeping up as I always do.  
~Darcey.

Calypso sung by Bevan Gardiner written by John Denver.

"There you go the live version of Calypso sung by Bevan Gardner. I want to go north a little bit to feature Shin from Japan singing Lake Biwaco," ~DJ Willie.

Lake Biwaco a traditional song by Shin Tsurukawa.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to play a song from this new tribute artist. This is Wang Chiensuing Wang Chienshiung BootLeg, a new tribute artist from China," ~DJ Willie.

Darcy Farrow sung by Wang Chiensuing written by Steve Gillette.

The Flower That Shattered the Stone sung by Jimmy Fong.

Sunshine on my Shoulders sung by Damien Leith written by Mike Taylor and John Denver written.

"I see that Shin is still with us. I want to give him credit for that," ~DJ Willie.

Shanghai Breezes sung by 鶴川信一郎 Shin Tsurukawa written by John Denver.

Whispering Jesse sung by Wang Chiensuing written by John Denver.

Wild Montana Skies sung by Trevor Knight written by John Denver.

Rocky Mountain High sung by Bevan Gardiner written by Mike Taylor and John Denver.

"Thanks to Janette Frawley for joining us today for this show. Thanks also to Bevan Gardiner for joining us as well. John brings us all together for one reason or another, for the children. John wrote so many songs for children. Thank you all for listening in. I don't know what I will be doing in two weeks. I have some songs in mind and I will be working with Darcey Anne with a playlist she started. See you in two weeks. This is Willie from Dillon. Peace," ~DJ Willie.

We Are One sung and written by John Denver.

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Thank you Willie, for everything you do to make these shows such a wonderful way to enjoy our weekends. Thank you Rose for all that you do, we appreciate everything so much. I want to thank all of the tribute artist who have gotten in touch with DJ Willie and shared their cover songs. If not for them, we would not have these concerts.

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I was thinking about a message I wrote to DJ Moon in South Korea. I told him that he played some wonderful music the night before. I mentioned how the music really made me feel good. He told me that music is definitely

something that can be a mood changer sometimes going from good to bad while other times you get this feeling of elation when you listen to a particular song. There have been times that I have heard a JD song that we can all identify as being entirely profound in its lyrics, its poetry and most especially the meanings that the song tries to convey. One song can mean so many different things to so many different people and that it is an amazing thing. How is this even possible? After all, we are all hearing the same song at the same time and it is not as if one radio station is playing two different songs at the same time. The world that we live in definitely has its issues, sometimes with nothing that can be done except lend an ear to listen, to possibly talk things out and hope for the best and in the end have an outcome that people are willing to live with, to survive as best we can, given whatever we have in our overly full lives.

Take care everyone and see you on facebook.

~Darcey

**Aspen in October**

Keep checking for the events planned for Aspen in October this year. The events thus far can be found at;

<http://www.johndenvercelebration.com/events>

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**John Denver's Unsung Story**

By Frank W. Martin (February 26, 1979 Vol. 11 No. 8)

*It Wasn't Easy for John Denver and Annie to Survive Their Rocky Mountain Highs—and Lows*

Come let me love you  
Let me give my life to you  
Let me drown in your laughter  
Let me die in your arms...  
—Annie's Song

It may be the most celebrated love ballad John Denver ever wrote and still wafts out at an occasional flower-child wedding. But what jolted Denver into creating Annie's Song back in 1975 were the aftershocks of the near breakup of his own celebrated marriage to the lady of the title, Ann Martell Denver.

Admittedly "insecure" and overwhelmed by John's staggering success during their "tough" early years together, Annie, as well as John, had withdrawn into "noncommunication." Finally they actually separated, and a confused Denver fled their Aspen aerie for Switzerland. "It was only six days, but felt like three months," Annie recalls now. "I would get up at 4 a.m. and start crying and continue until I went to sleep that night." The crisis didn't end until a tearful long-distance call helped Annie "really get clear that I loved him totally. What it came down to is that love is unconditional.

We've had some bad times, but now we keep talking."

That reconciliation, and rethinking, preserved a union that's now lasted 11 tumultuous years. John, after all, was an obscure folkie with the Chad Mitchell Trio when he met Annie. Then stardom hit like an avalanche, as he sold more than 100 million records, became a movie actor (in 1977's *Oh, God!*) and TV fixture (hosting last week's Grammys, for example, and headlining his own special next month). Annie, now 32 to his 35, sat home worrying, "How am I going to compete with this? It was very threatening for me," she notes. "I didn't know who I was. I didn't have an identity."

John's absences didn't make it easier. Even though he writes about home and hearth, Annie tends them—seldom leaving the Aspen he so lovingly limns in song. Characteristically, she turned down even the trip to Washington, D.C. with John when he represented American pop music at last month's hoopla for Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. Teng was so touched by John's rendition of *Take Me Home, Country Roads* and by his halting Chinese phrases (Denver was the only entertainer on the program who even tried) that 110 copies of the new LP *John Denver* were dispatched to the departing visitors. ("Now we've got 900 million new potential customers," gloats Denver's mega-manager, Jerry Weintraub.) "John would be happy traveling, seeing the seven wonders of the world," figures Annie. "I'm pretty happy at home."

The difference now, of course, is that she has a reason—rather, two reasons—to stay there. After learning that John was unable to father children himself—a fact he has frankly acknowledged, though "People were first blown away when I was willing to say that I'm sterile"—the Denvers decided to adopt. To shorten the wait, they didn't specify sex or race but only that the babies be healthy. Zachary John, now 4, is one-quarter Cherokee, and Anna Kate, 2, is Japanese-American. "I feel an incredible bond with the women who gave birth to them," glows Annie. "But they are totally our children." "How did we ever live without those little children?" marvels John. "We were always meant to be together. It enhances everything."

They have certainly eased Denver's wildly gyrating emotional swings. A complicated and intense man (for all his onstage cheerfulness), Denver admits that his Rocky Mountain highs "have been balanced by incredible lows. When I get depressed," he admits, "I question whether life is worth living." Parenthood has changed that dire outlook and convinced him that "the epitome of being a man is being a father." For one thing, the children have altered John's Cuisinart approach to the consciousness movement. Where once he united yoga, est, aikido, pyramid power and

rolling, John has now discovered a more traditional faith. "Anna Kate likes to hold hands and pray at dinner. It's something special they enjoy doing," reports Annie, (est, to be sure, remains a passion, and Denver still praises Werner Erhard as "one of my dearest friends.") "I think more about the family now," sums up John. "That's an interesting progression for me." A "night person" on tour, Denver has had to readjust, especially to early rising. "No more making love in the morning," Annie cracks. He still spent half of last year away from Aspen, but now when he's there, he's there. "I used to be here physically, but my head would be on the road," he admits. For Annie, too, it's an adjustment. "She has all this stuff going—errands, visiting friends, taking care of the children," says John. "It's difficult to pull her out of that to where she will accept that I'm home and give me a little attention."

But John has been arriving or leaving on a jet plane since they met in 1966. He had just replaced Chad Mitchell in the folk-singing trio. After a concert at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn., he spotted a pretty sophomore in the student union. "I wore blue jeans, lumberjack shirt and penny loafers. John later told me he fell in love on the spot," recounts Annie. But it wasn't until a year later, when John was giving a concert 10 miles away, that they had their first date. John hit it off with her restaurateur father and he "really appeals to those mothers," Annie jokes now. But she herself said no when John proposed in 1967. But then, she adds, "I changed my mind. So my best friend called John and told him to ask me again." That time she accepted. "Of all the people I ever met in my life, he really seemed to care and love me. That's why I married him. There wasn't this—boom—sexual attraction, but he's that too."

John had first visited Aspen while courting Annie on a ski trip. He attached to it as only a rootless Air Force brat could. And after three years of living in Chicago and Minneapolis, the Denvers started house hunting in Aspen. John had left the trio, but his solo earnings had gone primarily toward making good the group's inherited debt. "There was nothing we could afford," he recalls. "This guy said, 'Let me show you some lots.' And he took us up on the hill here. There was lots of snow and it was near evening. Annie and I held hands and said, 'We'll take it.' We had found our home. It's as simple as that." Then, after *Country Roads* hit in '71, the Denvers suddenly could not only afford the payments on the land but moved to Aspen and erected the prize-winning redwood-and-glass contemporary house where they roost to this day. They have added a living room filled with earth-tone supergraphics, stained glass and plants, a separate guest house and small outdoor pool. Annie still does the shopping, cooking (John's



favorite: chicken curry), dishes and laundry. A friend does her cleaning. When John is home they ski, go camping and hiking together. John also likes an occasional joint and, in summer, tattles Annie, "to take off all his clothes and go out and till the soil."

This month he will tape the second annual John Denver Pro-Am Ski Tournament in Heavenly Valley for an ABC special. At the same time, he will do a week-long stint at Harrah's Tahoe. He is also contemplating a wildlife documentary, Rocky Mountain Reunion, in the spring. Since Oh, God! he has read "tons" of scripts, but "I don't want to do another one just to do a movie."

Denver still gives time and money to what he calls his "concerns": anti-hunger programs, the antinuclear-power movement, endangered species, the ERA and the exploration of space (he's a board member of the National Space Institute). Although he "thought seriously about getting into politics a couple of years ago," Denver is now disenchanted. "It is one of the least effective arenas in the world," he has decided. "I frankly think I'm in a much more powerful position as a singer and songwriter." He no longer plans to do fund-raising concerts for politicians (as he did for Carter and McGovern), though he continues charity gigs like last month's UNICEF concert with the Bee Gees, Olivia Newton-John, et al. His own SRO tours will continue, with or without Top Ten records—"It's been so long I don't remember," he jokes, though "it sure would be nice to get one." The muse and subject of so much of his writing still glows over "the romanticism of it all. It's like having a man defend your honor and fight for you," says Annie. "I think it is a wonderful thing that a lot of women have lost in liberation." Still, when John comes home from a hard stint at the studio looking for compliments, she sometimes annoys him by innocently asking, "Isn't that too much echo on your voice?" Zachary is equally blasé. John can't forget the time when, in a limo on the way to see his father perform, Zachary looked at the crowds and remarked to his parents: "Are all these guys going to hear some guy's dad sing?" "At times I've got a really big ego," John goes on, a bit misty-eyed. "But I'll tell you the best thing about me. I'm some guy's dad; I'm some little gal's dad. When I die, if they say I was Annie's husband and Zachary John and Anna Kate's father, boy, that's enough for me to be remembered by," says John Denver. "That's more than enough."

<http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20073026,00.html>

### **Aspen Journal; In sight of Earth's Best, Plotting to Save the Rest**

By DIRK JOHNSON

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ASPEN, Colo., Aug. 31— In a setting as splendid as the Roaring Fork Valley here, it seemed a bit

incongruous to hear that the planet Earth could be headed the way of the Studebaker.

But the warnings of ecological doom, and ways to prevent it, drew nearly 1,000 environmentalists here this weekend to hear lectures, listen to music, sip espresso and plot strategies to save the planet.

The symposium was sponsored by the Windstar Foundation, an ecological concern founded by the musician John Denver, who lives here. It featured talks by scientists, executives and, true to the Aspen tradition, celebrities, including the singer Olivia Newton-John and the actress Whoopie Goldberg.

"Within the next decade, and certainly within our lifetimes, we're going to determine whether the Earth remains habitable for higher life forms," said Mr. Denver, who became famous for his songs about bucolic wonders. "In this wonderful and desperate battle to save the Earth, the people who have come here know that they are not alone."

The lofty goal of the three-day symposium, "Creating a Socially Just New World Environment," was matched by the ticket price, \$395. The gathering attracted longtime environmentalists, as well as more recent converts.

Sam Georges, a personal-injury lawyer from Canton, Ohio, said he was a carnivorous, wasteful, ecologically ignorant man not so long ago. But the times have changed him.

"I quit eating meat," Mr. Georges said. "In fact, I've joined a vegetarian club. And I started an environmental group in northern Ohio."

Michael Head, a computer systems manager in La Jolla, Calif., said the environmental movement gave him an opportunity to express his more creative, nurturing side. "A lot of us here use our right brain all week in our business activities," he said. "And this gives expression to the left brain part of us."

Linda Sumner said she was beckoned to the seminar from Kailu, Hawaii, by "the spirit of most high." She added, "If you use the term God, some people get offended."

A director of a group that works for social change in Hawaii, Ms. Sumner said she hoped to be able to "network" with like-minded people here. "Our motto is: Stop all Wars. Find a happy solution." For Jerry Rhodes, a Denver asphalt company executive, it was a love of John Denver's music that brought him to the seminar. "I've got all his songs," he said.

The weekend seemed to go off without a hitch, except for a political faux pas by the caterers.

They served meatballs with the spaghetti. "One woman came up and said, 'How on earth could you bring us red meat?' " said Tim Christensen, who delivers food from a metallic refrigerated





truck. "Heck, we're used to the construction crowd. They love the hearty stuff." Outside the Aspen Music Festival tent, booths were set up for information on alternative energy, alternative diets, alternative education. The displays included a "biodome," a rounded, enclosed tent that uses solar energy to grow plants. A brochure explained that such growing domes can raise organic foods without harmful pesticides. And the literature noted a further benefit: "Many people put a hot tub in the growing dome!"

Besides aiding the environment, the conference focused on socially conscious ways to run a business, methods to become more personally "centered" and ways for men and women to communicate better.

Such lingual sensitivity was, however, not so apparent in a speech here by Representative Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado, who attributed many of the failures in Washington to "high testosterone levels."

The Windstar Foundation presented an award of \$10,000 to Lester R. Brown, president of the WorldWatch Institute, a not-for-profit research institute devoted to global environmental issues. The WindStar Youth Award, including a \$2,500 scholarship, went to Kory Johnson, the 13-year-old president of Children for a Safe Environment. The Phoenix girl founded the group when she was 10. Membership has grown from 12 to nearly 300. "I just knew that being an environmentalist was going to be popular," she said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1991/09/02/us/aspen-journal-in-sight-of-earth-s-best-plotting-to-save-the-rest.html>

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## Annie's Song

You fill up my senses like a night in the forest,  
like the mountains in springtime, like a walk in the rain,  
like a storm in the desert, like a sleepy blue ocean.

You fill up my senses, come fill me again.

Come let me love you, let me give my life to you,  
let me drown in your laughter, let me die in your arms,  
let me lay down beside you, let me always be with you.

Come let me love you, come love me again.

You fill up my senses like a night in the forest,  
like the mountains in springtime, like a walk in the rain,  
like a storm in the desert, like a sleepy blue ocean.

You fill up my senses, come fill me again.

