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 Contact: Jason.Bruffy@montgomerycollege.edu

240-567-5794

BusyGraham@carpediemarts.org /301-466-0183

**Back to the Garden: A Celebration of Woodstock’s 50th Anniversary**

**and a Revisiting of American Anthems**

***Presented by Montgomery College-Takoma Park/Silver Spring***

***and Carpe Diem Arts***

**Saturday, October 12, 7:30pm**

**Montgomery College: Cultural Arts Center**

7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

*By the time we got to Woodstock*

*We were half a million strong*

*And everywhere there was song and celebration*

*And I dreamed I saw the bombers riding shotgun in the sky*

*And they were turning into butterflies above our nation*

*We are stardust, we are golden*

*And we’ve got to get ourselves*

*Back to the garden*

From “Woodstock” by Joni Mitchell, 1969

Widely viewed as one of the most profound and influential cultural events in our nation’s history, Woodstock took place in August 1969, at the apex of the civil rights and anti-war movements.

Through songs and reflections on an era of peaceful protest and activism supporting social and civil justice and nonviolence, the October 12 event is presented by Montgomery College and Carpe Diem Arts in celebration of Woodstock’s 50th anniversary, and of the power of music in bringing people together.

Featured will be songs from Richie Havens’ opening set at Woodstock, along with other favorites from the festival, and popular American anthems of hope that are relevant today and for the future.

From folk to rock-n-roll, the stellar line-up includes WAMMIE-award winning singer-songwriter Lilo Gonzalez with the DC Labor Chorus and Carpe Diem singers; Tinsmith with Brooke Parkhurst and Rowan Corbett (of Carolina Chocolate Drops); Downwire, a local band that promises to rock your socks off. The second set will feature Walter Parks who toured for ten years with Richie Havens, accompanied by masterful accordionist Rob Curto; soulful rocker Kentavius Jones; and Chris Noyes, glorious singer and member of the acclaimed Ocean Orchestra. Chris will share Joni Mitchell’s iconic “Woodstock” song, among other highlights from yesteryears. Warm up your pipes and be prepared to join in on the choruses and the surprise grand finale.

*“I've seen a lot of great concerts in my time but I honestly can't think of one that mesmerized me as much as yesterday’s trip to the Garden. I've never heard Walter Parks or Chris Noyes before. They were phenomenal.*

*And with Kentavius in harmony with them, there were so many songs that were just magic*

*-- as those standing ovations validated.  Wow, just wow. What a treat!”*

*~* Mike Starling, President & General Manager, WHCP Cambridge Community Radio, Inc.

Commenting on the first “Back to the Garden” concert Sept. 15 at the Oxford Community Center,

featuring Chris Noyes, Kentavius Jones, Walter Parks & Rob Curto

TICKETS: $5 for Montgomery College students; $10 for other students; $20 for general audience. Reserved seating. <http://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/cac/back-to-the-garden-a-tribute-to-woodstock/>

MORE INFO: <https://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/> www.facebook.com/events/658638987981254/

jason.bruffy@montgomerycollege.edu / 240-567-5794 or busygraham@carpediemarts.org 301-466-0183

**EMCEE’S FOR THE EVENT ARE: Congressman Jamie Raskin, Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Center director, Takoma Park’s Mayor Kate Stewart, and Steve Hoffman, WOWD Takoma Radio host & program director**

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**ARTIST BIOS -- Interviews available on request**

**PHOTOS HERE:** <https://photos.app.goo.gl/oaHESsL6ynEftwQA8>

**LILO GONZALEZ** is a musician, singer and songwriter who has enriched our cultural landscape through his performances and recording projects and as a teaching artist, sending a message to adults and children from all cultures and walks of life that we can and should unite to build a better world for all.  As a grade school teacher in El Salvador, he fell in love with the poetic lyrics of Joan Manuel Serrat and Facundo Cabral, at a time when social injustice became unbearable and erupted into a brutal civil war. As an undocumented immigrant in the United States, music became an oasis for Lilo. He discovered the music of Ruben Blades and Pete Seeger and was impressed with how their songs could change the way we think. As a songwriter in the 1990s, Lilo sang about immigrant struggles, winning him second place in the Billboard songwriting competition and OTI song festival, and received  five Washington Area Music Awards (WAMMIE’s). Past performance highlights include Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, President Clinton’s Inauguration, Levine School of Music, festivals and concert halls worldwide.

**BROOKE PARKHURST** and **ROWAN CORBETT** are two-thirds of the band *Tinsmith*.  Brooke graces the stage with the elegance of her voice and her remarkable musicianship on banjo, guitar, Irish whistle, and flute. Her sources of inspiration include Peter, Paul and Mary, the October Project, Silly Wizard, Joe Jackson. Rowan Corbett is the duo’s rhythmic driving force. His guitar style has been refined from a mix of influences such as Ani DiFranco, Kim Thayal of SoundGarden, and John Doyle. His unique voice and bones-playing add to his contributions. He is a current member of the Grammy Award-winning Carolina Chocolate Drops as well as a member of Rhiannon Giddens’ touring band.

**DOWNWIRE** is a popular DC area band, playing a great blend of rock ‘n roll, blues, soul, motown and “all that good stuff!”  Band members are Roger Coleman, Professor Emeritus of the music department at Montgomery College (on guitar and keyboard), Tom Kaufman, renowned filmmaker (on bass), Bob Hirshon, host of AAAS’s “Science Update” (lead vocals and guitar), and Bruce Allen on drums.

**CHRIS NOYES** is renowned for her stunning voice and skillful acoustic guitar playing. Originally from Baltimore, Chris got her start playing Irish music at the Gandy Dancer in the early 1980s, and played with top Celtic groups such as Helicon before moving to Maryland’s Eastern Shore. There, with other leading musicians of the coast, she formed *Crab Alley*, a band dedicated to traditional and original music of the Chesapeake Bay. Chris produced a solo album, *Mirrorstones*. Beloved for her music and teaching on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, she has also been a mentor to many folk singers and guitarists across the region. She is currently touring as a member of the acclaimed *Jennifer Cutting’s Ocean Orchestra*.

**KENTAVIUS JONES** (KJ) grew up in a music-filled household and was listening to Stevie Wonder, Miles Davis, Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix on vinyl with his DJ father as a young child. As a teenager, KJ became fully immersed in sonic exploration, and in his senior year of high school, he picked up the guitar and began singing. His first group was a rock band that formed during his years as a student at Washington College--which is where the songwriting began. After many band incarnations and tons of shows, his individual artistry took shape and become what it is today: a unique brand of swoon-worthy soulful rock. Kentavius just released a debut album called *The Bohemian Beatbox* and currently resides in Easton, MD. He teaches middle school in Dorchester County.

**WALTER PARKS** -- After dropping out of business school, Walter formed an acoustic duo called The Nudes in New York City with cellist Stephanie Winters in 1991. The Nudes recorded three albums and enjoyed a successful career touring U.S. colleges and folk festivals, serving occasionally as Richie Havens’ opening act. In 2000, Walter and Stephanie were invited to join the great Richie Havens and they toured worldwide as a trio from 2001-2011. Highlights included Madison Square Garden for Pete Seeger’s 90th birthday celebration, Carnegie Hall, The Cannes Film Festival in France and the WOMAD festivals in New Zealand and Australia. Walter currently tours solo, with the extraordinary accordionist [Rob Curto,](http://www.robcurto.com/) and with his bands, “Unlawful Assembly” and “Swamp Cabbage” – exploring a treasure trove of hollers, reels, shape-note songs, spirituals and hymns, with his own signature twist. Walter has received countless accolades for his musicianship and artistry. Judy Collins wrote:

*“Walter Parks is an extraordinary singer whose songs can break your heart as well as get you dancing. Lyrical and political, personal and otherworldly at the same time, transcendent as well as down to earth, Walter is a musical treasure, an artist of the highest caliber. To hear him is to be lifted into a mystical sphere. I adore him.”*(Judy Collins)