

John Gorka, folk singer-songwriter



Sunday | 7:30 pm

APR 16, 2023

Pavilion

World-renowned singer-songwriter John Gorka got his start at a coffeehouse in the late 1970s, Godfrey Daniels, one of the oldest and most venerable music institutions in eastern Pennsylvania. As the resident emcee and soundman, he encountered legendary folk troubadours, like Canadian singer-songwriter Stan Rogers, Eric Andersen, Tom Paxton and Claudia Schmidt. Their brand

of folk music inspired him, and before long, he was performing his own songs as an opener for visiting acts. Soon, he started traveling to New York City, where Jack Hardy's legendary Fast Folk circle (a breeding ground for many a major singer-songwriter) became a powerful source of education and encouragement. Folk meccas like Texas (Kerrville Folk Festival, where he won the New Folk Award in 1984) and Boston followed, and his stunningly soulful baritone voice and emerging songwriting began turning heads. Those who had at one time inspired him had become his peers.

Now, with 14 critically acclaimed albums, he captures a wide array of topics and experiences and weaves them into memorable melodies. He has collaborated with the likes of Nanci Griffith, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Ani DiFranco, Lucy Kaplansky, Patty Larkin and many more. *Rolling Stone* has called him "the preeminent male singer-songwriter of the new folk movement." His rich multi-faceted songs full of depth, beauty and emotion have gained attention from critics and audiences across the country, as well as in Europe where his tours have led him through Italy, Belgium, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Switzerland and Germany. In 2023, he will be in the studio working on a batch of new songs, though a release date is to be announced.

There will be no intermission during this performance.



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