**The Legendary Music Inn – 2012 Reunion**

Chances are pretty good that if you utter these two words – “Music Inn” – within earshot of anyone deemed as part of the counterculture of the mid 20th century, ears will perk up. Post it, pin it, or tweet it and, well… you’ll suddenly find yourself immersed in a community of folks around the world eager to chime in with recollections of stories, memories, photos, and long saved keepsakes of one of the most memorable times of their lives. This is the motivation behind the Music Inn Reunion that will take place at another legendary local music venue, The Guthrie Center at 7pm on Sunday September 23, 2012.

The Reunion will be harken back to The Music Inn for an evening of socializing, reconnecting, food, drink, music and dancing. A gallery of memorabilia, including photographs, prints, original signs, and other items will be on display and original Music Inn concert recordings will be played. A Music Inn inspired supper and beer and wine will also be available. Following a social hour and open mic where guests can share stories and anecdotes, Members of Good Friend Coyote, a local favorite at Music Inn, will reunite to perform, inviting other musicians to join them.

When the Music Inn Facebook Page was created in 2010 by Lee Everett, on staff at Music Inn in the 1970s, former Music Inn staff, crew, friends, and fans began a passionate conversation, sharing stories, photos, and dreams of somehow recapturing the magic they experienced at The Music Inn in Stockbridge, MA. The page soon became plastered with conversation, photos, memorabilia, recollections and reconnections. The power of the Internet revealed a broad and passionate community of people ready to re-engage with one another over their experiences at Music Inn.

In the summer of 2010 David Rothstein hosted a Music Inn Reunion at his current rustic venue, Race Brook Lodge in Sheffield, MA. Over 125 people, many of them clad in well worn vintage Music Inn, Riot Alley, and Toad Hall t-shirts, gathered to reconnect, socialize, browse a gallery of memorabilia that included photographs, posters, original signs, and to share stories, dance to the music of Shenandoah, who reunited just for the occasion, and to watch a screening of “Music Inn – The Documentary”.

The event sold out weeks in advance and was a huge success, raising funds for development and maintenance of a Music Inn Archives Website, which can be found at [www.musicinn.org](http://www.musicinn.org). Lynnette Najimy of Beansprout Productions and Lee Everett of Fine Line Media worked with Rothstein and a long list of contributors to design and publish the website. Since its launch, which is rich with content, including history, photo collections, memorabilia, live concert recordings, video productions, books, etc., the community has expanded and the content has become broader and deeper. The website’s content has largely been provided by people around the world who are enthusiastic about contributing to a real and lasting archive of the legendary Music Inn. Archivists, historians, and students have used the website a resource and share current published studies and articles relating to the rich history of The Music Inn.

Founded in 1950 by Philip and Stephanie Barber and in turn owned by Don Soviero during the 1960s, and in 1970 taken over by partners Olga and Robert Weiss and David Rothstein, The Music Inn hosted concerts, programs, workshops, and other events to some of the countries most renowned music legends… before they became legends. To name just a few - Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Jon Baez, Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk. Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Dave Brubeck, Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley and Muddy Waters. The Kinks, The Byrds. Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt and Van Morrison all performed on The Music Inn stages over its 30-year run.

Much has been written over the years on the history and many lives of Music Inn. Ben Barenholtz has produced a documentary film that illustrates decades of American Music History that took place at Music Inn. References and links to these and more can be found at [www.musicinn.org](http://www.musicinn.org).

The Music Inn Reunion 2012 will be held at The Guthrie Center on Sunday September 23. This collaboration is not by coincidence, as Woody Guthrie played the very first concert at The Music Inn in 1950. 2012 is the Centennial of Woody Guthrie’s birth. Arlo Guthrie played the first concert at Music Inn’s reopening in 1970. Proceeds from this event will benefit The Guthrie Center and the development and continuation of The Music Inn Archives.

Arlo Guthrie opened The Guthrie Center as a place to bring together individuals for spiritual service, as well as cultural and educational exchange in 1991. The Trinity Church where the song “The Alice’s Restaurant Massacree” began and where the movie “Alice’s Restaurant” was filmed continues to service the local and international community. The Guthrie center also hosts The Troubadour Series from May to October.

A limited number of tickets for Music Inn Reunion 2012 are still available and can be ordered by calling The Guthrie Center at 413.528.1955. The ticket price of $25 includes light fare. Additional food, beer, wine, and memorabilia will be available for purchase.

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