



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Carpenter, Campbell, Herring, and Holley Headline Welty Concert

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Mary Chapin Carpenter, Kate Campbell, Caroline Herring, and Claire Holley, singer/songwriters who credit author Eudora Welty for inspiration, will perform a concert in honor of Welty's 100th birthday on Friday, April 17, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Singing the Centennial: A Welty Tribute Concert, scheduled for 8:00 p.m. at the Belhaven College Center for the Arts, is sponsored by the Eudora Welty Foundation and Cellular South.

Tickets may be ordered online at www.ticketmaster.com (search: Eudora Welty) or call 601-355-5252. They may also be purchased at the Mississippi Coliseum box office or Bebob Records. To request a specific seat, tickets must be purchased in person.

The concert is part of a series of special events during Welty Week April 11-18. They include a photography exhibition at the Mississippi Museum of Art, performances of Welty's *The Ponder Heart* at New Stage Theatre, and *Adoring Eudora*, a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Details may be found at www.eudorawelty.org.

[Mary Chapin](#) Carpenter has earned five Grammy Awards. Her 2007 CD, *The Calling*, was nominated for a Grammy for the Best Contemporary Folk/Americana Album. Her latest recording, released in 2008, is *Come Darkness, Come Light: Twelve Songs of Christmas*.

Carpenter also wrote a children's book and song called *Halley Came to Jackson* based on her reading about Welty's being shown Halley's comet by her father when she was an infant.

She has recorded 11 albums, sold more than 13 million records, and scored 12 top 10 singles in her

Carpenter performs in support of cancer and AIDS research, U. S. troops overseas, the Campaign for a Landmine Free World, and hunger relief efforts. She lives with her husband on a farm in central Virginia.

[Kate Campbell](#) has been called an “artist who has tapped into the Southern literary bloodline.” [Born in New Orleans, she lived for a time in Sledge, Mississippi](#), and her life and work were influenced by the struggles of the civil rights movement. Race, religion, history, and human relationships are themes throughout her work.

Entertainment Weekly says she is “something of a musical Eudora Welty, chronicling Southern life with an eye for illuminating detail and a knack for creating memorable, sometimes wacky characters.” Her song “Yellow Guitar” was inspired by Welty’s short story “The Hitchhikers.” She has produced 12 albums since her award-winning debut, *Songs from the Levee*, in 1995, her newest release being 2008’s *Save the Day*. [R&B, pop, gospel, country, and folk rhythms punctuate her music](#). Campbell and her husband live in Nashville.

[Caroline Herring](#), who grew up in Canton, Mississippi, is noted for her folksy, bluegrass sound and draws her lyrical impulses from Southern literature. Her songs have been described as “crafted with timeless elegance and graceful confidence.” While studying for her master’s degree in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi, she co-founded *Thacker Mountain Radio*, a weekly radio show.

[Her musical](#) career blossomed as she became a popular figure on the Austin, [Texas, music](#) scene. She was named Best New Artist by the *American Statesman* and the Austin Music Awards in 2002 for her first album, *Twilight*, called by one reviewer “distinctive and captivating.” Her latest album, *Lantana*, was released in 2008 and dubbed one of the Top Ten Folk Albums for 2008 by National Public Radio. Herring lives in Atlanta with her husband, daughter, and son.

Claire Holley, a native Mississippian, began performing and writing songs in college, releasing her first record, *Night Air*, soon after graduating. In 1999, she made *Sanctuary*, an inspired recording of traditional hymns, which was featured on *NPR's Weekend Edition*, along with her self-titled debut from Yep Roc Records. Her songs, "both playful and poignant," reveal the roots/blues tradition of her home state.

In addition to releasing six records (including *Live at St. Andrew's* with Caroline Herring), Holley has also composed for film and theater. She was nominated by the 2006 *LA Weekly* Theatre Awards for Best Original Music for the songs she wrote for *See Rock City*, a play by Arlene Hutton. She scored music for *The Fence*, an independent film that received the 2008 UCLA Directors Spotlight Award. One reviewer said of her latest record, "*Hush* is a rare gift, both a quiet meditation and a melodically sparkling treasure." Holley lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons.

Eudora Welty was one of the most celebrated authors in American letters, known as a master of short fiction. The winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, she was also an accomplished photographer. She was the first living writer to have her complete works published by the Library of America. Welty died in 2001 and left her home, papers, and photographs to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The agency administers her home, a National Historic Landmark and one of the most intact literary house museums in the country.

The Eudora Welty Foundation, a non-profit organization, assists in the preservation of Welty's home and garden and aids in the cataloguing of her manuscripts, correspondence, and photographs. The Foundation also supports public programming at the Welty House and its Education and Visitors Center—all designed to honor Welty's love of reading and writing.

The Welty Centennial is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, through the National Endowment for the Arts' American Masterpieces Initiative. Other supporting partners include the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Development Authority, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart M. Irby, Sr., and WLBT 3.