

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SONGWRITING



AUGUST 22, 2022 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlie Maguire celebrates 50 years of songwriting with a concert at Ginkgo Coffeehouse

WHO: Songwriter/performer Charlie Maguire

WHAT: Kick-off concert celebrating Charlie Maguire’s 50-year career as Singing Ranger, Minnesota State Parks Troubadour, composer, and visiting songwriter.

WHERE: Ginkgo Coffeehouse 721 N. Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

WHEN: Saturday, September 17, 2022, 8 p.m. \$20 tickets in advance at ginkgocoffee.com

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In Maguire’s 50-year career as a guitar player and songwriter, he has crisscrossed the United States and Canada and played in Europe with the U.S. Department of State. Unlike most guitar players, his career has taken him to libraries, schools, elder campuses, veterans groups, theaters, and under leafy trees in numerous parks. He humorously calls these varied venues his “different hats” and considers this 50-year celebration his “Big Hat Tour.” Songs from his breadth of work will be performed on a two-year project that kicks off at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse.

As an early performer on *A Prairie Home Companion*, Maguire’s songs “Talking Home Improvement,” “Oh, Cold and Misery,” “Fall is Here,” and “I’m From Minnesota” made him a audience favorite.

When Maguire was Minnesota State Parks Troubadour, he researched and wrote songs about park history and uncovered the story of Mary Gibbs—the first woman park ranger in the U. S. His song about her led to naming Itasca State Park’s Headwaters Visitor Center after her. The song plays year-round in an outdoor pavilion in front of the building.

When the Mississippi River and National Recreation Area opened in downtown St. Paul, Maguire was hired as the Singing Ranger. He wrote and performed songs about the people

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and history of the river eventually winning the Freeman Tilden Award for outstanding interpretation by a National Park Service Ranger.

One of two music scores Maguire wrote for St. Paul's History Theatre, *Orphan Train*, became one of the theatre's biggest grossing and most staged musicals.

For 30 years Maguire's been a visiting songwriter with COMPAS. He's written with children, Alzheimer's patients, and veterans numbering more than 1000 songs. Operation Sight and Sound, a program Maguire ran at the Minnesota Veterans Adult Day Center, won three awards including the State Government Innovation Award.

Selections from these "different hats" will be performed at the Ginkgo Coffeehouse along with other songs Maguire's written that delve into his own personal interests: war photographer Robert Capa's excursion into Iowa's cornfields, a Ukrainian woman who begins every day by shoveling debris left from the previous night's terror, and a hobby Maguire picked up during the pandemic that uses vintage typewriters for storytelling, songwriting, and extreme outdoor adventures (Seriously—check his website!).

Maguire says, "Like my hero Woody Guthrie, I look at people and events in the world and tell their stories through song. The everyday people, the union activists, the underappreciated regular people—they are my inspiration."

(See poster on next page)

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