# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE!



The Third Tuesday of Each Month LIVE at the Olde Town Pickin' Parlor Arvada, Colorado







# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE! WITH Jon Chandjer

FEATURING Ernje Martinez, Johnny Neili, & Jeff Graves

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WITH JON CHANDLER
A live concert series from the Olde Town Pickin' Parlor in Arvada, Colorado

Kit Simon's Olde Town Pickin' Parlor in Arvada, Colorado is one of the country's premier acoustic musical instrument shops. Its 19th-century brick walls are decked with high end guitars, mandolins, dobros, banjos and just about anything else with strings. What better place to host a monthly gathering of the Rocky Mountain region's best singer/songwriters? On the third Tuesday of each month, the shop fills up with an audience that's come to expect the best in Colorado music. For two hours, singer/songwriter/author Jon Chandler welcomes two guests to the stage for *America's Soul Live!*, a round-robin, Austin City Limits-type acoustic concert showcasing regional and national singer-songwriters. Bassist/audio producer Jeff Graves, string wizard Ernie Martinez, and fiddler *extraordinaire* Johnny Neill (who collectively play with Chandler as Jon Chandler & the Wichitones) are on hand, as well.

Simon approached Chandler with the concept of starting a songwriter's showcase in early 2004, with the first edition taking place in March of that year. The idea was to let a small audience interact with performers they would normally see on larger stages. "I perform at a lot of festivals, and the highlights are always after the main shows when writers and players get together in private rooms or hotel lobbies to jam," says Chandler. "We've captured that spirit in this series." Chandler invited singer/songwriters Chris Daniels and Timothy P. Irvin to join him for the first show. The intimate atmosphere and close proximity between the performers and the audience were immediate selling points. The audience loved the shows, the singer/songwriters loved the shows, and the venue was established.





# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE! Jon Chandier, Teaturing Ernie Martinez, Johnny Neiji, & Jeff Graves

An interview with Jon Chandler on the eve of the tenth anniversary of America's Soul Live!, one of Colorado's premier acoustic concert series.

## How'd this whole thing get started?

[Olde Town Pickin' Parlor proprietor]Kit Simon had held shows at his guitar shop for ages, but not on a regular basis. Sandy Reay was working for him in 2004, and called saying Kit was wondering if I'd be interested in hosting a regular concert series. Chuck Pyle had started a round-robin songwriter's circle at the Pickin' Parlor but couldn't continue because of other commitments. I jumped in with both feet. I asked my friend and producer John Macy to archive the first show on tape, and asked Chris Daniels [Chris Daniels & the Kings] and Timothy P. Irvin [Timothy P. & Rural Route III, Flash Cadillac] to join me, along with Ernie Martinez as our all-purpose picker. Over the next couple of months my bass player at the time, Butch Hause, took over archiving and playing bass, as well. A couple of shows in, Johnny Neill joined us on fiddle, so the show basically became Jon Chandler & the Wichitones with special guests. We missed a show in October 2004 in order to rehearse for the November recording of my live CD, Maybe It's the Moon, and also the December 2004 and January & February 2005 shows at a time when my wife Pat was recovering from a ruptured brain aneurysm. Other than that, we've been regular as clockwork.

## How'd the show's title come about?

For the first year, we just called it a songwriter's circle, where I'd swap songs with two other songwriters in a round-robin format. In 2005, Jess Stainbrook, who was a videographer and producer for Douglas County Television, caught us, and thought the whole concept would make a great TV show. He suggested that my song, *America's Soul*, would make a good title for the series, so **America's Soul Live!** was born. Jess and his crew videotaped most of the shows throughout 2005 and 2006, and a dozen or so were shown on Douglas County Channel 8. When Jess left the station, Rocky Mountain PBS picked up the shows, and snippets were shown on Frontier Airlines Wild Blue Yonder feature, as well. Plus, the Altitude Sports & Entertainment Network's *Onstage* taping in 2007 still has people checking in.

#### Was it hard to build an audience?

Not really. The first shows had a few dozen people, but word of mouth took over, and we're generally SRO. Our audience is extremely loyal. Some of these people have been coming from the very beginning. A lot of people saw America's Soul Live on DC-8 or Rocky Mountain PBS and decided to drop in. They never left. Plus, Kit loves to tell the story of people flying Frontier who watched the show in the air, landed in Denver and made mad dashes to the store just to see the mandolin wall that's our backdrop.

# What's the format?

Acoustic music, plain and simple. It's an Americana show, and probably is weighted toward "western" acoustic music – generally story songs - since that's what I perform. Not necessarily cowboy music, but western music...there's a distinction. That said, we really bounce around the entire spectrum of acoustic music. We've had singer songwriters who do jazz, new age, blues, rock 'n roll, bluegrass, a lot of folkies and a few legends. It's also turned into somewhat of a singer's show...some of the best vocalists you'll ever hear.

### You mentioned archiving?

Yeah, most of the shows from 2004 through 2006 were archived by Butch, many to synch up with video. We kind of dropped it for a couple of years...life gets in the way, you know? Jeff Graves joined us on bass and audio and archived several shows, as well. In addition, friends have taped shows and posted quite a few to YouTube.

From a visual standpoint, Big Bill Patterson has archived nearly every show with his incredible photography. He really captures the show from both the performers' and audiences perspectives. Plus, he's added some great lighting, so at the very least, we look good.

## Any times you just lost it onstage?

A couple. We were recording our live CD, *Maybe It's the Moon*, and were doing a couple of horse-themed songs. We were getting ready to perform a song called *Hoofbeats on Stone* and I gave a long, way-too-wordy intro. Butch counted it off and he, Ernie and Johnny roared into a completely different tune called *Black Horse*. I cracked up and the audience was in stitches. We kept it as a hidden track on *Maybe It's the Moon*.

Another time, Juni Fisher was telling the crowd about her guitar. Ernie is a legendary punster, and when she said she endorsed "Larrivee guitars, and Elixer Strings," I waited a downbeat or two for Ernie to chime in with the obvious response. He hadn't heard her, so I had to do it for him. I said, "E does?" Brought the house down.

Also, Gary McMahan's poem about an ape breaking Shetland ponies for carnival rides was so funny people in the audience were gasping for air, and I couldn't continue.

#### Favorite moments?

We moved the show to Swallow Hill's Daniels Hall one November to accommodate a larger crowd, and my guests were Richie Furay and Harry Tuft. Harry did the most delicate, moving version of *Over the Rainbow* I've ever heard. It was breathtaking. And on that same show, I got to sing harmony with Richie on *Kind Woman*. It was an incredible night for me.

One February we did a benefit concert for our friend, western singer/songwriter Brenn Hill's son, Briggs. Briggs wasn't quite three when they discovered a malignant brain tumor. He's doing well, thank God. But the benefit was an amazing moment in time. We had a silent auction...you can't believe the things people donated... beautiful stuff. Between the auction, the door, sales of wrist bands that were put together by a wonderful group, and donations, we pulled in a nice chunk of change for little Briggs. Another benefit for our late friend Frank Wolking of *The Sons and Brothers* was really gratifying, too. Frank lost his battle, but it was another great moment to show how much people care. We also did a benefit for Locke Hamilton, part of the wonderful Wyoming-based group The Prickly Pair along with her husband, Les. Unfortunately, Locke passed away just before the concert, but we were able to raise enough through the silent auction and donations to make a substantial contribution to the financial obligations facing Les after Locke's death.

What else? Oh, the subdudes' John Magnie doing a song on guitar rather than accordion or keyboards. And Celeste Krenz being joined by Mary Huckins for an impromptu *Joleen* that left the hair on my neck standing up. Or the Christmas show with Jim Salestrom singing *Queen Anne's Lace* with beautiful accordion accompaniment from Eric Moon. Or Hannah Alkire from *Acoustic Eidolon* channeling Jimi Hendrix on her cello. Or Johnny Hickman from *Cracker* and Jim Dalton from *The Railbenders* doing badass outlaw cowboy songs together. There have been so many memorable performances. Recently, I discovered the fantastic singer/songwriter John William Davis, who knocked my socks off...as did Texas singer songwriters Susan Gibson, Mike Blakely and Bob Livingston. Every show has its moments.

I mentioned the Christmas shows. They've been so memorable. The Wichitones and I are all members of Timothy P. Irvin and the Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers, an 11-piece holiday bluegrass orchestra that plays several shows each December at the Lakewood Cultural Center. I often have several of the Stuffers join us for our Christmas

shows...Mary Huckins and Dana Vernon in particular. Mary's is the personification of the term "songbird," and Dana is one of the finest guitarists in America.

### What's in store?

More of the same, I think. We've talked about expanding, maybe doing a larger venue, but I really think the atmosphere of the Pickin' Parlor is crucial to the show. So, aside from occasionally working with Swallow Hill on special shows, we'll be staying put. We're now on the radar and get a lot of inquiries from the house concert crowd. There's a whole group of accomplished artists around the country who have had some measure of success and who love to interact with an audience rather than merely perform in front of it. Many are the songwriters who compose some of the biggest hits of the day. They or their management put together small tours, and if they're near Denver on any given third Tuesday of the month, they may show up on America's Soul Live!



# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE! Jon Chandier

FEATURING Ernje Martinez, Johnny Neili, & Jeff Graves

# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE! ROSTER

Red type indicates repeat guest.

# 2004

June

March: Chris Daniels – Leader of the internationally-popular Chris Daniels & the Kings.

Timothy P. Irvin – Frontman of the legendary Timothy P. & Rural Route III and Flash Cadillac.

April: **Jim Ratts** – Member of the Dirt Band spin-off *Wild Jimbos* and *Runaway Express*.

The Wichitones – Chandler's band featuring Ernie Martinez, Butch Hause & Johnny Neill.

May Milton Carroll – Original Cosmic Cowboy, stints with Willie Nelson, Odetta and praise music superstar Bruce Carroll.

Mary Huckins – Nationally recognized songbird, fronts Dakota Blonde.

**Bill Barwick** – The Voice of the West; the cowboy singer's cowboy singer.

**Steve Pierce** – Denver-based folksinger, popular open stage host.

July Richard Dean – Exceptional writer; stints with Michael Martin Murphy, Lix DeLux.

**Dave Schaper** – Popular Denver singer/songwriter with *Reckless Abandon*.

Aug. Rebecca Folsom – A genuine chanteusse, one of Colorado's most popular singers.

Patty Clayton - Multiple award winner in the western genre; Western Music Association female vocalist of the year.

Sept. **John Magnie** – Incredibly soulful founding member of the subdudes.

W. C. Jameson – Texas troubadour, award-winning poet, author and songwriter.

Oct. No Show

Jon Chandler & the Wichitones—Maybe It's the Moon CD live recording.

Dec. No Show

# 2005

Nov.

Mav

Aug.

Dec.

Jan. No show Feb. No show

March Ed Scibbe - Music industry executive and Breckenridge-based singer/songwriter.

Frank Gregg – Boulder singer/songwriter and recording artist.

April **Jim Ratts** 

Timothy P. Irvin

**Dan McCrimmon** – Half of the legendary duo *Frummox*, writer of *Kansas Legend*.

**The Wichitones** 

June **Doug Elrick** – Fine bluegrass tenor and acoustic songwriter.

**Bill McKay** – Compelling Bluegrass songwriter and guitarist.

July Rebecca Folsom

Milton Carroll

**Acoustic Eidolon** – Internationally acclaimed new age/celtic husband & wife duo.

Sept. Patty Clayton

Nancy Thorwardson – Western swing songbird.

Oct. Jim Salestrom – Nationally and internationally known acoustic artist; stints with John Denver and Dolly Parton.

**Bill Barwick** 

Nov. Jim Salestrom, Timothy P. Irvin, Mary Huckins, Eric Moon (Taped Christmas Show)

Gary McMahan – Western poetry & music legend, Garth Brooks co-writer.

**Kerry Conner** – Nationally recognized praise singer/songwriter.

# 2006

March

April

Jan. Celeste Krenz – Stunning Colorado songwriter and singer, now based in Nashville.

**Mary Huckins** 

Feb. Chuck Pyle - The Zen Cowboy, known for his deep songwriting and stunning guitar work.

W. C. Jameson

**Chris Daniels** 

Mack Bailey – Tenor for the *Limelighters* and John Denver Tribute artist.

Liz Barnez - Bluesy New Orleans-bred Coloradan via Nashville, and subdudes pal with a national following.

**The O'Brien Family Band** – Evergreen-based & nationally praised, featuring superb family vocals and instrumentals.

May The Sidemen – Six great side musicians. Charlie Provenza, Chris Stongle, Dana Vernon, Ernie, Butch & Johnny.

June Jim Mason – Renowned producer of Poco and Firefall: co-writer with Peter. Paul & Mary's Paul Stookey.

Jock Bartley - Country rock legend; founder of Firefall and Gram Parson's guitarist.

Sally Barris - One of Nashville's premier writers with charted singles by Kathy Mattea, Trisha Yearwood and many others. July Michael Lille - Colorado-based Nashville writer with multiple cuts to his credit. Juni Fisher – The fastest-rising female singer/songwriter in the Western music genre. Aug. **Bob Hayworth** – Folk veteran, long time member of the *Kingston Trio*. Sept. Stephen Bennett – Internationally popular master of the harp guitar; one of America's finest acoustic musicians. Katoorah Jayne - Denver-based with a huge fan base within the acoustic and country music industries. Jim & Salli Ratts - Special Runaway Express show. Oct. Nov. Jim & Vickie Jones – Special Reckless Abandon show. Dec. The Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers – The area's finest acoustic and bluegrass musicians in a Christmas show. 2007 Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore - Nationally praised folk/blues duo featuring incredible vocals and guitar work. Jan. **Michael Engberg** – Denver-based singer/songwriter and guitar instructor. Feb. Roz Brown - Fixture at the Buckhorn Exchange, Denver's famous and historically important frontier bar. **Bill Barwick** March **Pop Wagner** – A Prairie Home Companion veteran; guitarist, storyteller, songwriter and humorist. Juni Fisher The Comstock Wichitones - Five piece band version of the Wichitones assembled for the Comstock Windmill Festival. April May **Barry Ward** – Kansas rancher busy making waves in the western and country music genres. **Kit Simon** – Swing guitarist extraordinaire, Olde Town Pickin' Parlor proprietor. Jon Chandler & the Wichitones - Special taping for Altitude Sports & Entertainment's On Stage concert series. June July **Celeste Krenz Sally Barris** A Special Benefit for Frank Wolking. Jon Chandler joined by Bill Barwick, Butch Hause, Mary Huckins, Loose Cannon, Ernie Aug. Martinez, Liz Masterson, Johnny Neill, Kit Simon, Martin Gilmore and other special guests to aid the patriarch of Sons and Brothers as he fights cancer. **Pop Wagner** Sept. **Kit Simon** Oct. **Dan McCrimmon Patty Clayton** Nov. The Laws - John & Michele Law; Powerful Nashville-based duo featuring stunning roots/folk. Kort McCumber - Multi-instrumentalist and heralded writer associated with Vince Gill. Dec. Wichitones Christmas Show 2008 Jan. Milton Taylor – Australia's premier Bush Poet and a fixture at American Cowboy Poetry Gatherings. Dick Warwick – Eastern Washington-based poet, novelist, and comedic wit. Feb. Hickman Dalton Gang – Frontmen for Cracker (Johnny Hickman) and the Railbenders (Jim Dalton) respectively. Dana Cooper – Legendary Nashville-based Americana singer/songwriter. March Chris Daniels Randy Rigby with Nataly Lola – Multiple award winning musicians in the praise, jazz and pop genres. April Celeste Krenz **Wyatt Easterling** – Nashville publishing and songwriting fixture. Chuck Pyle May Kort McCumber June Mac Bailey Sandy Reay - Colorado bluegrass fixture, Bob Turner co-writer. Rebecca Folsom July Josie Quick & Tom Carleno, aka Perpetual Motion - Colorado-based improvisational acoustic jazz artists. The Laws Aug. Timothy P. Irvin Sept. **Dana Cooper Buddy Mondlock** – First rate songwriter, Guy Clark collaborator. Oct. Martin Gilmore – Young bluegrass phenomenon. Al Mehl – Cerebral western singer/songwriter with incredible humor and wit. Νον. Richie Furay – Rock 'n Roll Hall of Famer, founding member of Buffalo Springfield, Poco & SHF Band.

Harry Tuft – Folk legend, proprietor of the Denver Folklore Center.

Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers Christmas Show – Timothy P. Irvin, Mary Huckins, Dana Vernon

# 2009

Dec.

Jan. Pop Wagner

Owen Kortz - Colorado-based singer/songwriter.

Feb. A Special Benefit for Briggs Hill – Jon joined by Mike Hurwitz, Bill Barwick, Patty Clayton, Roz Brown, Liz Masterson in benefit for our friend Brenn Hill's son in his fight against pediatric cancer.

March Jim Ratts

Doug Elrick

April Kort McCumber

**Scott Von** – Popular northern Colorado singer-songwriter.

May Songs of Jon Chandler & Timothy P. Irvin — Tunes Jon & Tim have written together.

June Mary Huckins

Michael Johnson – Nashville based singer-songwriter, composer of Bluer Than Blue.

July **Juni Fisher** 

**Patty Clayton** 

Aug. The Rhythm Angels – Rebecca Folsom & Celeste Krenz duo.

Susan Gibson – Texas-based singer/songwriter, composer of Wide Open Spaces for the Dixie Chicks.

Sept. Marcy Baruch – Amazing Denver-based vocalist and accomplished songwriter.

Wyatt Easterling

Martin Gilmore

Kit Simon

Nov. Harry Tuft w/Dick Weismann

Pete & Joan Wernick - Internationally known banjo virtuoso (Pete) and folk songbird (Joan).

Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers Christmas Show – Jon joined by Mary Huckins, Dana Vernon.

# 2010

Oct.

Dec.

April

June

Aug.

Νον.

Jan. Gary McMahan – Special cowboy performance in honor of the National Western Stock Show.

Feb. Jon Chandler & the Wichitones – With guests Kit Simon and Martin Gilmore.

March Bill Barwick
Roz Brown

Kort McCumber

Julia Bryan - Fantastic young singer/songwriter taking the Rocky Mountain West by storm.

May Celeste Krenz

Kit Simon

Susan Gibson – Texas-based, nationally renowned writer of Wide Open Spaces and dozens of others.

Mary Huckins

July Juni Fisher

Maree McRae - Nationally praised, Adult Contemporary Chart-topping singer/songwriter...one of the best.

Jamie Sue-Seal - Detroit-based singer, record exec. And all 'round mover & shaker.

John Latini - Soulful blues man from Michigan with multiple songwriting and singing awards to his credit.

Sept. Mack Bailey & Rachel Levy

Ellen Stapenhorst - A folk and Americana staple in the Colorado mountain resort areas...a truly unique songsmith.

Oct. Chuck Pyle

Wyatt Easterling

Harry Tuft

Pete & Joan Wernick – Dr. Banjo and his guitar pickin' better half. Bluegrass legends.

Dec. Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers Christmas Show - Jon and Timothy P. Irvin's holiday bluegrass orchestra.

# 2011

Feb.

May

June

July

Sept.

Jan. Milton Taylor

Al "Doc" Mehl – Incredible wordsmith...singer, songwriter & poet.

The Waymores – Nashville songwriting supergroup featuring hit-writers Sally Barris, Tom Kimmel and Don Henry.

March Special 7th Anniversary show with Jon Chandler & the Wichitones and guest Barry Ward.

April Rebecca Folsom

Liz Barnez

Gary McMahan

Mike Hurwitz

The Mild Colonial Boys - Rory McNamara, John Caulfield, Fergus Feeley & Kyle Alden. The Bay Area's finest Americana/Celtic

quartet.

Little TimmyJon & the Can't Hardly Playboys - Eight top-notch veterans of Colorado's honky tonk scene; cryin' in your beer songs.

Aug. Mike Fleming - One of America's premier singer/songwriters...L.A.-based frontman of the incredible New West.

Willie Hammond - Astonishing keyboard virtuoso and jazz singer/songwriter, she is captivating.

Raul Reynoso - Django Reinhardt acolyte, New West member and one of the world's finest guitarists.

Nancy Cook - First rate songwriter, a Colorado and Texas Coast legend for her fine vocals and unique stage presence

Oct. Mark Lee Gardner & Rex Rideout – Americana music historians who transport the audience to the Wild West campfire.

**Liz Masterson** – A true Western songbird and nationally-renowned yodeler.

Nov. Jim Ratts

Kit Simon

Dec. Jon Chandler Christmas Shows – Two shows featuring Ernie, Jeff, Johnny, Timothy P. Irvin, Mary Huckins, Dana Vernon.

# 2012

Jan. Patty Clayton

Eli Barsi – Beautiful songs, great pickin' and a fantastic stage presence from Saskatchewan. Backed by her husband, John Cunningham.

Feb. Bill Barwick

Al "Doc" Mehl

March Special 8th Anniversary show with Jon Chandler & the Wichitones and guest Mary Huckins.

April Chris Daniels
Sean McGowan

May Mike Blakely - An Austin legend, award-winning novelist, singer and songwriter.

Julia Bryan

Pop Wagner

Ernie Martinez & Johnny Neill - The sidemen step out!

July Little TimmyJon & the Can't Hardly Playboys - The return of the Honky Tonk Heroes.

August Chuck Pyle

**Duke Davis** - A Texas institution with deep Colorado roots, as well.

Sept. Barry Ward

Megan Burtt – First rate songwriter and singer.

Oct. Bob Livingston – Lost Gonzo Band founder, one of the legends of alt-country music.

Jamie Sue Seal and John Latini

Nov. Jim Ratts

Solomon Cook - Tim Cook (subdudes, 3Twins) and Rob Solomon team up in a powerful duo.

Dec. Jon Chandler Christmas Shows - Two shows featuring Ernie, Jeff, Johnny, Timothy P. Irvin, Mary Huckins, Dana Vernon.

# 2013

Feb.

May

August

Oct.

June

Jan. Mike Blakely

Eli Barsi

Michelle Crockett – Fabulous songwriter and leader of alt-country band Trucker's Daughter.

Stephanie Pauline - Enchanting pop and faith-based artist with international following.

March Jon Chandler & the Wichitones – Special anniversary show.

April Rebecca Folsom

Mark Oblinger - Renowned vocalist and jazz songwriter, former member of Firefall.

G.T. Hurley – Montana-based cowboy singer's cowboy singer. The real deal.

Uncle Kit's All Stars - New Orleans style jazz with Kit Simon joined by clarinet master Bill Ponterelli and banjo wizard Dave Marshall.

June Mary Huckins

Wendy Woo - Denver's premier female singer/songwriter. Exceptional vocalist and performer.

July Juni Fisher

Doc & Tub - Al "Doc" Mehl and his pal, Washtub Jerry. Hilarious cowboy poetry, singing and picking.

**Dan McCorison** – Country Rock legend with Colorado roots.

McCumber & Moors – ASL favorite Kort McCumber with his equally talented partner James Moors.

Sept. Sally Barris

**Barry Ward** 

The ASL All-Stars – The ASL sidemen step out. Tunes by, Ernie, Johnny, Jeff and Kit.

Nov. Almeda Bradshaw – Montana based cowgirl with lovely western tunes.

John William Davis - Literate & literary music from one of the country's finest - and deepest - songwriters.

Dec. Rocky Mountain Stocking Stuffers Christmas Show – Jon joined by Mary Huckins, Dana Vernon

# 2014 to date

Jan. Bill Barwick

Roz Brown

Feb. Jim Ratts

**Robin Hoch** – Fantastic singer-songwriter and member of Wendy Woo's band.

March TENTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW WITH JON CHANDLER & THE BOYS BEING JOINED BY DAKOTA BLONDE.

# AMERICA'S SOUL LIVE!

Venue: Kit Simon's Olde Town Pickin' Parlor, Arvada, CO

Dates: The third Tuesday of each month

Host: Jon Chandler (WWW.JONCHANDLER.COM)
The Band: Ernie Martinez; guitar, mandolin, dobro, banjo

Jeff Graves; bass, guitar Johnny Neill; fiddle

Jon Chandler; harmonica, guitar

House Sound: Jeff Graves
Audio: Jeff Graves
Photography: Bill Patterson
Jon's Website: Tom Mullen

