

PEGGY SEEGER



Appleseed Recordings Artist

Peggy Seeger

Peggy Seeger, sister to folk musicians Pete and Mike Seeger, is the daughter of folk music archivist and composer Ruth Crawford Seeger. Her first life partner was the English songwriter Ewan MacColl, who wrote *First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* for her. She is known for her excellent renditions of Anglo-American folksongs and for her activist songwriting, especially in the field of feminism. After living 35 years in England, she returned to the USA in 1994 and took up residence in Asheville, North Carolina, and then moved to Boston in 2006 to take up a teaching job at Northeastern University. She has 22 solo recordings and participated in over a hundred recordings with other artists. She records exclusively for Appleseed Recordings, and her 2007 recording project, *THREE SCORE AND TEN*, is a captivating 2-CD distillation of her 70th birthday concert in London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. She has published 149 of her songs in *The Peggy Seeger Songbook* (Oak Publications, 1998) as well as a companion volume of Ewan MacColl's songs, *The Essential Ewan MacColl Songbook* (Oak Publications, 2001). More information about her life, her work, and her touring, is available at her website, www.pegseeger.com.

THEY'RE SINGING HER SONG: *A Feminist View of the Image of Women in Anglo-American Traditional Songs*

A FREE Interactive Workshop

10 am • Friday • April 4

Verity Lodge on the Miami Middletown
Campus

Spend a morning exploring the image and roles of women in traditional Anglo-American songs dating from the 1600s onward.

This interactive workshop led by international recording artist and folk music legend Peggy Seeger looks at the music of the past, and then compares those songs with contemporary pieces in which women are portrayed more in depth and with empathy and hope.

Peggy sings and talks about folk music and its role in conditioning us to accept and pass on the status quo. The traditional songs are descriptive: where gender politics are involved, they tend to crystallize and reinforce gender stereotypes. In the bulk of these songs (both humorous and serious), women are seen as property, victims, nags, scolds, schemers, and as traps laid for helpless men; they are subjected to incest, physical abuse and coercion at every level. In a minority of traditional pieces, women are seen as individuals of courage, stamina, tenderness, loyalty and inventiveness.

Peggy then introduces contemporary songs by both men and women which are prescriptive—they not only cover the myriad of subjects left untended in the traditional pieces, but challenge the stereotypes and offer various means of solving the gender bind in which we often find ourselves.

IN CONCERT

8 pm • Saturday • April 5

Former Bank One Building
Main Street and Central Avenue
Downtown Middletown
FREE



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MIDDLETOWN

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