

Raitt Gate comes to Big Sky

Only 300 tickets left for the concert

By Laura Bell

The upcoming August 27th Bonnie Raitt concert is festival seating, which means as soon as the gates open concert go-ers will be scrambling for seats.

If you are looking for the best seats in the house and a party to boot The BSCC is offering a special deal as part of the Raitt Gate 08 package which lets patrons in to the venue early.

For people who are not aware, Raitt Gate is not only a fun party before the Bonnie Raitt concert; it is more importantly a fund raiser for the Big Sky Community Corporation (BSCC) parks and trails. If you have ever skied the dog loop in the winter, taken your family to picnic in the family pavilion, or enjoyed a few "drop ins" on the skate ramps you have benefited from the BSCC's years of work to bring parks and trails to Big Sky.

So how do you benefit and find the best seats in the house?

"If you live in Little Coyote or West Fork and are walking to the concert, you can get a wrist band and dinner for \$50," said BSCC's Mary Jane McGarity. That does not include parking.

"If you want to park and bring your food, there is a \$150 donation and we give you eight wristbands. Jam as many people into your car as you can," she laughed.

And for those who just want to park, the fee is \$20.

So why pay for parking when it has been free all year long?

"There have been free concerts all summer and free parking. This is a big event and we wanted to make it a fundraiser and have fun," she explained.

And really when thinking about it, a tail-gate party is a lot of fun.

For those wanting to go the whole lot, there is a pre-party which consists of dinner, drinks and pre-concert entertainment, plus the wristbands all in one convenient location, for \$300.

A non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, the BSCC has been behind the scenes for over ten years working on acquiring funding, assets and volunteers to lead the charge in building parks and trails in Big Sky. Through the years, the BSCC acquired the section of land now know as the Big Sky Community Park. The goal of the BSCC is to not just leave this an open space but rather to develop it into a top notch community park venue with multiple softball fields, all purpose fields for soccer and other field sports, multiple pavilion areas for picnics and barbeques, and a state of the art out door amphitheater that will in time rival the likes of Red Rocks and The Gorge. Easily a multi year, multi million dollar project that will require funds from all sources including resort tax, private donors, and fund raisers.

Don't be taken aback by the cost of the Raitt Gate event, you must keep in mind your bang for your buck. Depending upon your contribution level, you get a full dinner from The Corral, beer and wine, premium parking, entertainment by Steam Powered Airplane, and early entry to the concert venue. In Salt Lake City, general admission tickets for Bonnie Raitt alone costs \$117 per person compare that to the \$35 to see Bonnie Raitt in Big Sky.

So put those donation dollars to work and call the BSOA office (406-995-4166) for more information about the event and to get your parking passes to the Best Pre-Funk in Big Sky.

When Bonnie Raitt won a phenomenal four Grammys in 1990, it came as over-



Bonnie Raitt Photo by Sioux Nesl

due recognition for an artist who had been breaking down barriers of gender and genre since the early Seventies. Her feel for the blues was evident on her first album, Bonnie Raitt (1971), and though she's explored different kinds of material over the years - including pop, rock and balladry - a serious rooting in the blues has remained evident in her work. Raised in Los Angeles by her actor father John and pianist mother Marjorie, Raitt took up guitar at age 12. While attending college in Boston, she gravitated to the Cambridge folk-blues scene of the late Sixties. She emerged as both a prodigy and anomaly: a young woman who sang

from straight blues into more pop-oriented areas without losing sight of her roots. All the while, she selected tunes by the choicest songwriters (e.g., Randy Newman, John Prine, Eric Kaz, Allen Toussaint and Jackson Browne) while working with the cream of Southern California musicians, including members of Little Feat. By the mid-Seventies, she'd accrued a loyal and growing following on the strength of such albums as Streetlights (1974) and Home Plate (1975). The commercial pinnacle of Raitt's tenure with Warner Bros. Records was Sweet Forgiveness (1977), which yielded a near-hit in her cover of Del Shannon's "Runaway."

chance again." Indeed, the followup album, Luck of the Draw (1991), fared even better than Nick of Time, selling 5 million copies and winning three more Grammys. It also gave Raitt the first bonafide hit single of her 20-year career in "Something to Talk About," which reached #5. Subsequent albums have included Longing in Their Hearts (1994), the double-live CD Road Tested (1995) and Fundamental (1998), Silver Lining (2002), and Souls Alike (2005).

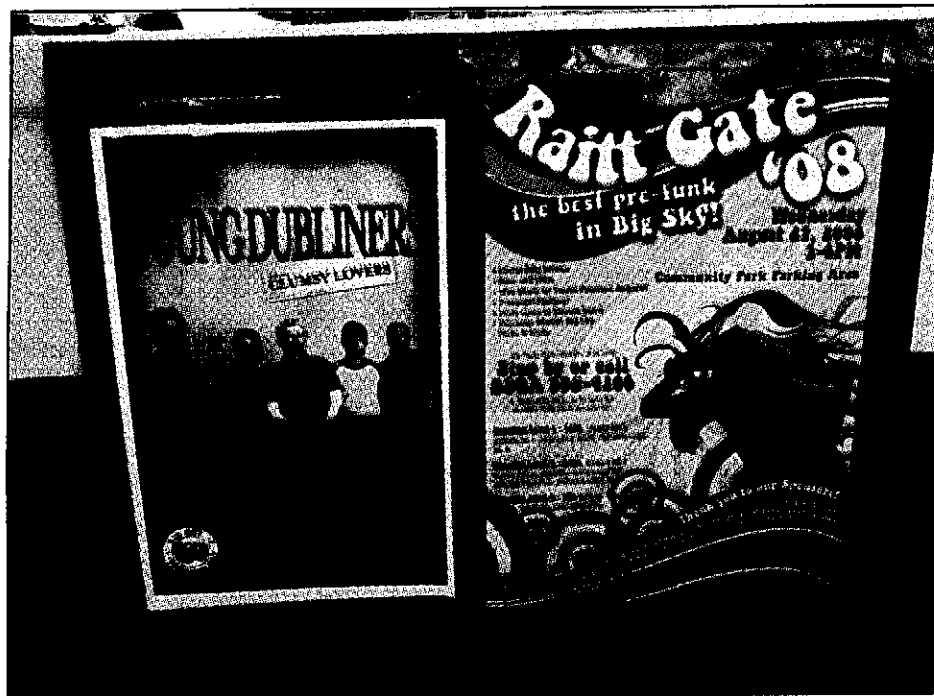
Bonnie continues to use her influence to affect the way music is perceived and appreciated in the world. In 1988, she co-founded the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which works to improve royalties, financial conditions, and recognition for a whole generation of R&B pioneers to whom she feels we owe so much. In 1995, she initiated the Bonnie Raitt Guitar Project with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, currently running in 200 clubs around the world, to encourage underprivileged youth to play music as budgets for music instruction in the schools run dry.

Her commitment to the redemptive power of music is expressed in the foreword she wrote to American Roots, the book based on 2001's PBS series of the same name:

"I feel strongly that this appreciation needs to be out there so that black, Latino and all kids can understand the roots of their own musical heritage," she explains. "The consolidation of the music business has made it difficult to encourage styles like the blues, all of which deserve to be celebrated as part of our most treasured national resources."

Opening the show is New York singer/songwriter Richard Julian, who recently released his latest album, Sunday Morning in Saturday's Shoes on Blue Note Records.

Don't miss this incredible artist performing in a beautiful setting, outdoors at the Meadow Village Pavilion--site of such past great shows like Willie Nelson, Taj Mahal, Galactic, Del McCoury and more. For more information on this show--including what is and what is not allowed into the venue--please call (406) 995-2742 or visit www.bigskyarts.org. The Arts Council of Big Sky is a nonprofit organization, bringing top-notch talent to Big Sky since 1989.



The Young Dubliners Concert and Raitt Gate 08 will both benefit the Big Sky Community Park.

blues with gritty passion and played slide guitar with authority, as if the genre's fundamentals had been etched in her soul.

Raitt was schooled by and performed alongside such estimable legends as Sippie Wallace, Mississippi Fred McDowell and Son House. Throughout her career, she's combined an old-school country-blues grounding with a contemporary outlook and willingness to experiment. She recorded eight albums for Warner Bros. Records from 1971 to 1986, progressively moving

Her graduation from respected cult figure to major artist occurred after her move to Capitol Records. Raitt's breakthrough album, Nick of Time (1989), slowly gained momentum, reaching the top of the chart exactly a year after its release--and a month after Raitt won the aforementioned batch of Grammys. On that memorable evening, Raitt put her awards in selfless perspective: "It means so much for the kind of music that we do," she said. "It means that those of us who do rhythm & blues are going to get a