

STREET SCENE

Claire Holley offers simple pleasures



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

Claire Holley walks outside her Greensboro, N.C. home, telephone in hand, accompanied by Annie, her cager black lab who can't wait to play catch. It's that sort of simplicity that fills through the Mississippi native's gentle folk-pop songs.

On her self-titled Yep Roc Records debut, the songstress wanders through very American territory as if on a roadtrip through her past, taking snapshots of everyday life. It's evident in titles like *Abilene, Pennsylvania Town and Mississippi*. Even up here in the Great Lakes, the trip sounds inviting.

Holley's music carries a strong story-telling quality. "I'm one of those people, I can't tell a story while I'm talking," she explained. "My husband is very good at that... When I write songs I go on what pleases my ear more than anything. Many of them do end up like stories. I'm kinda baffled about that."

The CD, much of it written or polished during a year she spent in her grandmother's old house in Mississippi, is her third effort, but first to receive the

widespread national distribution offered by Yep Roc, a label based in Chapel Hill, N.C.

"I remember when I was a little girl that would be one of my favorite things to do, go and sing with the class," said Holley. Maybe it was the array of instruments around the house when she was growing up - the auto-harp, a favorite music box - or that treasured Tchaikovsky album she can still picture, whatever the reason music comes naturally to her.

"I was all but forced to take piano lessons," Holley recalled. But by the time she enrolled at Wheaton College in Illinois, she shifted focus to English literature. When an influential teacher urged her to keep a journal for class, Holley made her first attempt at writing original songs. While music had been a part of her life since childhood, creating it for herself was something new. "I got into songwriting late," she said.

Holley echoes her surroundings in song, admitting she's inspired by "the heart and the mind." For her, writing is an outlet for emotion. And while her own lyrics are the sort to stick in your mind, she admits the artists who truly inspire her do so purely with sound. Some favorites range from Radiohead,

to Diana Krall, Lauryn Hill, Joni Mitchell and Stevie Wonder.

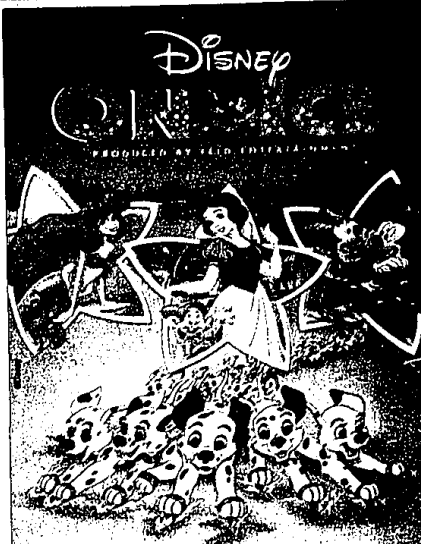
These days, Holley's been writing more instrumentals and getting a bit more personal with her music. She's begun playing electric guitar at her solo shows and feels it adds a "nice dynamic." Whether it's just Holley's gentle voice and wistful guitar or the full sound of a backing band, familiar feelings come shining through.

Don't miss Claire Holley's solo performance 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, Trinity House Theatre, Livonia. Tickets 88-10, call (734) 464-6302.



Simply put: Claire Holley brings southern style and honest songwriting to Trinity House Theatre.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric! newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2100 or e-mail at scasola@ec.homecomm.net.



See Disney Classics Come To Life On Ice.

Final 4 Days!

Joe Louis Arena

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
NOV. 8 11:00 AM	NOV. 9	NOV. 10 12 NOON	NOV. 11 1:00 PM
7:00 PM	7:30 PM	4:00 PM 7:30 PM	5:00 PM

Buy tickets at www.DisneyOnIce.com
 ticketmaster Ticket Centers
 including Fox Theater, Harmony House, and Marshall Field's,
 Arena Box Office or call (248) 645-6666

For information (313) 983-6606
 or visit www.DisneyOnIce.com

TICKET PRICES:
 \$14.00 - \$18.00 - \$20.00 - \$35.00 VIP
 (Service charges and handling fees may apply, no service charge at Arena Box Office.)



THANKSGIVING BUFFET

\$12.95 Adults
\$6.95 Children under 12

Complete Roast Turkey Dinner includes all the trimmings, salad, cranberry sauce, dressing, whipped potatoes, candied yams, gravy, vegetables, bread, and pumpkin pie for dessert!

All checks will be totaled with 6% sales tax and 15% gratuity.

OPEN
 Thanksgiving Day
 (Reservations 1-2:30 p.m., and after 7:00 p.m.)

23520 Schoolcraft
 for the Holiday Buffet
 (313) 481-4211 (248) 555-5250
 (248) 555-5250

2001 Holiday Shop

BBAC ceramics jewelry fiber glass ornaments seasonal gifts

Opening Reception
 November 30, 7-9 pm

Holiday Shop Hours
 December 1-9, 2001

Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm
 Friday-Saturday 10am-6pm
 Sunday 12-4pm

Make the BBAC Your Shopping Destination for the Holidays!

1516 South Cranbrook Road
 Birmingham, Michigan 48009
 (248) 644-0606 www.bbaccenter.org
 SPONSORED BY THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

Always Christmas

HOLIDAY COLLECTION

The finest quality Christmas and Holiday Ornaments from all over the world!



Tree Toppers

Exclusive Margaret Cobane Ornaments

Free Gift

Every \$35.00 merchandise purchase earns a free ornament of your choice from the selection above. Additional free ornaments may be earned with each \$35 spent.

Sale merchandise included. Selection may vary while quantities last. Ornaments may be substituted. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

CANTERBURY

Olde World Canterbury Village
 2369 Joslyn Court
 Lake Orion, Michigan 48360
(248) 391-5700

Open 361 Days a Year *

*Closed Christmas, New Years, Easter and Thanksgiving Day

Artificial **TREES**
 Wreaths & Garland

50% OFF!



Take I-75, to Exit #83, North. Located just 3 miles north of Great Lakes Crossing on Joslyn road.

King's Court Castle Restaurant

King's Court Castle Restaurant is located at historic Olde World Canterbury Village in beautiful Lake Orion with 18 shops and a unique family atmosphere. The Castle Restaurant is ideally suited for all social occasions! Complete banquet facilities are available.

For more information, call **248-391-5780**

www.canterburyvillage.com
www.aldrigedalwayschristmas.com