

Lucky Clark | Waterville Sentinel | December 13, 2002 | Waterville, ME

what's happening

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Thompsons offer 2 shows this weekend



Contributed photo

By LUCKY CLARK
What's Happening

"We have a lot of fun performing — we love doing it! And for these two shows, we'll be doing some holiday selections as well as some of our original music —so they will be festive."

So spoke Meredith Thompson (flute, percussion and harmony vocals) who, with her identical twin sister Chris (guitar and melody vocals), will be offering concerts at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Lithgow Public Library on Winthrop Street in Augusta and at 7 p.m. Sunday at the First Congregational Church on Eustis Parkway in Waterville.

"We've played at both venues before," Thompson said. "We played at the library a couple of summers ago outside — but this coming show will definitely be inside," she said with a laugh. "The Waterville church we played last spring (and) we had a great, really wonderful audience. It's a beautiful church, and we're looking forward to going back to both places."

The sweet-sounding siblings, whose family is from the Waterville area, are coming off one of the most successful summers ever. They

INFORMATION

- Chris and Meredith Thompson, 1 p.m., Lithgow Library, Augusta; Saturday.
- And 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, Waterville; Sunday.

performed the National Anthem at Fenway Park in front of 33,000 people at a July 7 Red Sox game and also got to play the main stage at the famed Falconridge Folk Festival. This past summer also marked the release of the twin's fifth album, "Clearwater."

"It came out in June of 2002," Thompson said. "We will be playing a lot of the music from 'Clearwater' and the title track is about the actual boat, The Clearwater, which was refurbished. I think it might have also been built in Deer Isle, so there's a Maine connection there."

Maine's own Gordon Bok was one of the first to be on the crew on that ship.

"We learned that when we opened for him!"

Dirty Linen | Jan/Feb 2000 | reprinted in entirety

Metronome Magazine | 2000 | reprinted in entirety



Dirty Linen
Jan/Feb 2000

This third recording by twin sisters Chris & Meredith Thompson shows the duo coming into their own. The production by Crit Harmon makes good use of the sister's unique harmony, and uses mostly acoustic backing (guitars, flute, bass, congas, violin) to bring out the best in the lyrics. Both sisters write songs that tell stories, some that draw on historical events, some on personal experiences, but all show a concern with the problems of the world (no lightweight love songs here). The recording is different from most singer/songwriters in a good way, and demonstrates that the two are only getting better. A pair to watch for. (JLe)

The Thompson's amazing voices will draw you into this fine collection first, and gradually you'll note the superb material they write. These twin sisters are new to me, but they hail from Massachusetts, and this is the third release of original material. Like other great sibling singers like Cape Breton's Rankin family of the Black Family of Ireland, their voices are completely joined and beautiful on the twelve numbers here. Chris plays flute and Meredith plays guitar, with subtle musical support from Matt Levenworth on violin, Greg Holt on Bass, and Steve Wilkes on percussion. This is not quite folk, though the songs belong more in the social narrative than pop. With echoes of the Indigo Girls and the McGarrigle Sisters, the duo incorporates jazz flavoring and precisely articulated vocal harmonies into the songs of history and social consciousness. "Hathaway" tells a Springsteen-ish story of a woman who faces a closed factory after years of work, and "Hometown" is as real as the last headline of a school killing in another small town. "House Divided" gives credence to the perspective of a single mom who's sick of her whiny teenager. Based on the intelligent songs and sophisticated settings here I'd say they are definitely worth checking out. The Thompsons will appear in our area September 21,22,23,24.

Chris & Meredith Thompson - historical acoustic sounds
Chris & Meredith Thompson
Music and Sound are their craft.
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