

Your Dance Music Headquarters!



Charlotte:
834 Central Ave. 28204
(704) 377-4067

Greensboro:
1833 Spring Garden St. 27403
(336) 272-7604

Raleigh:
309 W. Martin St. 27601
(919) 856-1429

White Rabbit Books & Things

www.WhiteRabbitBooks.com

The Shop
for all Your Gay & Lesbian ...
Books, Music, Cards,
Magazines, Gifts, Clothes,
Video, DVD, Calendars,
Stickers and Jewelry!

Q Culture

Margie Adam, Kerry Lobel project to fuse culture and community

Women's music legend taps renowned activist as executive producer for spring 2001 release and tour

by Stephanie Simon
Special to Q-Notes

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Acclaimed singer-songwriter Margie Adam and veteran political organizer Kerry Lobel announced on October 23 that they will collaborate on a new undertaking — *The Avalon Project* — which will include a March 2001 CD release and a national concert tour. "Avalon," Adam's eighth recording, will be the centerpiece of a project designed to celebrate and galvanize feminist awareness in music lovers across the country.

The tour will work in tandem with community organizations — providing audiences with on-the-spot access to membership, volunteer and



Kerry Lobel

Dance • Film • Literature

fundraising information. In addition, a portion of each concert's proceeds will be directed toward a designated social justice organization.

Adam, a distinguished performer and recording artist, is also a founder of the "women's music" genre — a movement that paved the way for women in music to maintain independence and artistic integrity in the music industry. Lobel will serve as executive producer for the CD and tour. She is the former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the country's oldest progressive organization working for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

The impetus for the partnership stems from Adam and Lobel's desire to raise the visibility of lesbian-feminist culture within the larger community. "Although often unacknowledged," said Lobel, "lesbian leadership and sensibility continue to be at the root of many movements for social change." Lobel continued, "What's more, there are many people who do not yet recognize the resonance of feminism in their current political and cultural work. We'd like to create an opportunity for people sharing a common vision to come together."

"We approach the choice of CD material and concert venues," said Adam, "knowing that music can reach people in places that political speeches can't. People are hungry for artistic and cultural experiences that speak to their lives. Over and over I've watched as audiences become energized by the experience we have created together. We hope to capture this momentum by providing immediate access to local organizations."

Since Lobel's departure from NGLTF last April, there has been wide speculation as to her next move. "My decision to work with Margie," said Lobel, "was a natural step. Her music is deeply informed by her experience as a woman, as a lesbian, and as an artist involved in many movements for social change. In the context of my work as a political organizer, I continue to marvel at Margie's fierce sense of justice."

Lobel is one of the nation's most respected political organizers and experts on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered issues. Under her stewardship as the Executive Director of NGLTF, the organization dramatically increased its budget, staff and range of programs. She served as the agency's spokesperson, appearing regularly in high profile media venues. Before her tenure there, Lobel was the lead organizer of the Women's Project in Little Rock, Arkansas where she worked on bias violence, women and AIDS, women in prison, and domestic violence.

Additionally, Lobel edited the collection *Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering* (Seal Press). She has just moved to Pescadero, California.

"Kerry's life work," Adam said, "has been to lift up the voices of those who have been silenced. She has created environments for both women and men to tell their stories and forums where those stories could be translated into political action. We intend to create yet another space to awaken and celebrate the nearly invisible on-going presence of feminism in our society today."

Adam's array of accomplishments and accolades are many. "Her melodies are graceful and inviting, her voice honest, relaxed, lovely, her piano spacious and sophisticated," according to the *Boston Globe*. National Public Radio features music from her solo piano works, *Soon and Again* and *Naked Keys*; the anthem "We Shall Go Forth!" is archived in the Smithsonian Museum. Her songs have been recorded by other artists including Cris Williamson, Holly Near and Peter, Paul and Mary, who recorded her signature "Unicorn Song."

Adam produced the *Three of Hearts* piano tour, which also featured Liz Story and Barbara Higbie. She is the associate producer of two upcoming films: *Radical Harmonies: The History of Women's Music* and *No Secrets Anymore*, the story of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. *Avalon* will be issued on her own label, Pleiades Records. She lives in Berkeley, California.

For tour dates and locations and additional information, visit: www.margieadam.com.

What Can The Charlotte Business Guild Do For You?

- Network with Other Gay and Lesbian Professionals
- Build Your Business
- Form New Friendships
- Be an Active Member of the Community
- Find Business Resources
- Participate in Community Activities and Fundraisers
- Become a Role Model
- Learn Valuable Information from Interesting Speakers

Guests Are Welcome at All Business Guild Meetings

Every Wednesday

Informal Social 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Hartigan's, 601 Cedar Street

Next Monthly Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2000
Social 5:30 pm/Dinner 6:30 pm
Holiday Inn, 230 N. College St.

Annual Holiday Party

Bring a fun gift for our gift exchange and wear a festive outfit!



Serving the Gay And Lesbian Community Since 1982

For more information or reservations, call (704) 565-5075, or email businessguild@yahoo.com