

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Small show promises to deliver big

## Fred Small

with special guest  
Tracy Drach

February 7, 9 p.m.

Hanes Art Center

Available at the B-GLAD office,  
the Campus Y and International-  
alist BooksTickets: \$5 for students, \$7  
in advance, \$9 at the door

Great music is like great barbecue — its wonderfulness creeps up on you a little at a time. You start by wolfing it down, but then you start to notice a sort of tangy sweetness, and you slow down and begin to appreciate the subtle interaction of flavor and texture; your admiration continues to build, and before you know it, you're scraping the sides of your plate for any dribblings you might have missed.

Fred Small's music is like that. I first heard it when I was visiting a friend in Stillwater, Okla. She told me that I had to listen to this guy, so I listened, and said something devastatingly brilliant like, "Yeah, that's pretty good." I drove off a couple of days later playing Small in stereo, and for the first time really listened to the songs. The first

## Karen Swain

time through the tape I hummed along, the second time I sang, and the third time through, it hit me what I was singing. I burst into tears just outside of Tulsa; I was much too moved to worry about mundane details like rear-ending the car in front of me because I couldn't see anything.

It's not just me. He's hailed by Pete Seeger as one of America's best songwriters. *The New York Times* said, "Fred Small is doing what the best topical songwriters have done since the 1960s. He uses a handful of chords, a sense of humor, a sense of purpose and an eye for revealing detail to write songs that tell stories with a political point ... Small's affection and optimism are contagious."

His songs are poignant because they tell true stories, stories that are individual yet universal. Children of Arabs and Jews learning to live together peacefully, an American soldier who is saved by Russians, a football player who finds happiness driving a school bus, a gay couple whose children are taken away from



them, and a polar bear who comes home to Alaska are a few of the individuals whose stories he has told. Despite the seriousness of many of the issues he confronts, Small hasn't lost his sense of humor, as evidenced by the immortal lines, "If I were a moose and you were a cow, would you love me anyhow?"

Of his own music, Small says, "I choose stories that illustrate people at their best

— stories about people taking charge of their lives. My songs offer lessons on how to take power in our lives without hurting people or being violent ... Murder and rape can be expressed easily in a headline. But it's much harder to tell a story about love, courage, or community."

After recovering my composure in Tulsa, I wondered if Small had any other albums on the market. I bugged record

dealers from Missouri to Maine, asking them if they had anything by Fred Small. Nobody had ever heard of him, and it was nearly two years before I found him again.

Fortunately, you have the opportunity to avoid this tragic circumstance. At Fred Small's concert at the Hanes Art Center this very week, you can partake of this penultimate experience for a mere five clams. Don't miss it.

The staff and management of The Capital Corral ask that you:

DON'T DRINK

if your'e driving. We offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages  
for your enjoyment.

|                  |             |                              |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| Apple juice      | Coca-Cola   | Coffee                       |
| Cranberry juice  | Diet Coke   | La Croix Sparkling Water     |
| Grapefruit juice | Ginger Ale  | Sharp's Non-alcoholic Beer   |
| Orange juice     | 7-Up        | and                          |
| Pineapple juice  | Tonic Water | Blended Non-alcoholic Drinks |
| Tomato juice     | Club Soda   |                              |

(And if you have been drinking and shouldn't be driving, please let us call a cab for you. We want you to come back.)

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