

TOM CHAPIN

Folk Icon Tom Chapin Brings a Fresh Perspective to Good Food and the Green Earth with his New Family Recording, "Give PEAS A Chance"

3-Time Grammy Winner Encourages Good Food Choices with "Fun, Singable" Songs

Discussing the genesis of Give PEAS a Chance, his 22nd album, singer-songwriter Tom Chapin explains, "The idea was to explore food issues in a way that's fun, informative, accessible and singable, and not pedantic or preachy." Chapin's new album of nutritionally- and environmentally-conscious songs will be released on May 3, 2011 on Sundance Music.

"A wonderful project with a truly important message."

Alice Waters, chef, author, and the proprietor of Chez Panisse

The 14-song Give PEAS A Chance, subtitled Whole Grain Music for Free-Range Earthlings, delivers musically and lyrically compelling tunes that address a wide range of food issues that have recently become part of the national dialogue, including local, sustainable farming practices ("Locally Grown," "Grow Your Own," "Farmer's Market Good"), good food choices ("The Junk Food Pyramid"), positive self-image ("Every Body"), and school lunches ("The Ultimate Lunchroom"). There's even a ditty written from the perspective of a bean stalk growing in the First Lady's garden ("Beans Talk").

The anthemic album-closer "Enough for Everyone" starts with Jay Ungar's unmistakably sweet Fiddle and draws its inspiration from the vital work of WhyHunger. Tom has been an active board member in this organization since it was founded (as World Hunger Year) in the 1970s by the artist's older brother, the late singer-songwriter/activist Harry Chapin.

Chapin, whom the New York Times dubbed "one of the great personalities in contemporary folk music," is joined on this album by his longtime musical cohorts John Forster, Michael Mark and Jon Cobert. Together, they integrate elements of folk, blues, bluegrass, ragtime, rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll, and infuse the songs with clever, humorous wordplay that will delight listeners of all ages.

Also lending a hand are Chapin's daughters Abigail and Lily, who in recent years have achieved considerable acclaim of their own, recording two well-received albums as The Chapin Sisters.

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"Give PEAS A Chance"

"What feels great to me about this CD," Chapin notes, "is the way it connects to and comments on some longtime interests of mine: hunger and food issues, the environment and sustainability, education, self-image, community, and personal and generational relationships. But the songs began with the same rules as all of my family recordings: make it delightful, musical, singable, kid-friendly and adult-safe." Which is perhaps why teachers throughout North America have incorporated his songs into their curriculum, finding them informative and easily adaptable to classroom study and interaction.

Over the course of his five-decade long career, the multi-talented singer-songwriter-guitarist has covered an incredible amount of creative ground. In addition to his work as a recording artist and concert performer, Chapin has acted on Broadway, as well as working extensively in television, radio and films.

Chapin also works on behalf of a variety of charitable organizations. In addition to his ongoing commitment to WhyHunger, he remains active in a variety of environmental causes and is a strong advocate for music and the arts in our public schools.

Chapin reflects on this latest recording: "I love that this music connects generations – parents and kids listening together, and perhaps starting a dialogue."

Download music and high res artwork from Give PEAS A Chance at www.tomchapin.com/peas. A physical copy of the CD is available upon request.

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