

Local bluegrass singer reveals her past

By Art Edelstein / Arts Correspondent - Published: January 25, 2008

One of the better bluegrass singers lives right here in Montpelier. While Carol Hausner has been keeping a low profile since moving to Vermont several years ago, her voice, and that of her singing partner Ed Schaeffer, will be on display at Langdon Street Café on Sunday. Expect to hear two fine voices sharing a love for bluegrass music done the traditional way.



Honeysuckle – Ed Schaeffer and Carol Hausner – will perform at Montpelier’s Langdon Street Café on Sunday.

The two singers/guitarists performed for nearly 20 years in the Takoma Park, Md., area. They built up a good following under the moniker Honeysuckle.

Hausner, who is currently recording her first solo CD, said Honeysuckle is "a traditional bluegrass duet with country material in the mix." At the upcoming performance she and Schaeffer will also sing some traditional country songs, which, in her words will have "more of a bluegrass flavor." Two fine local musicians are backing Honeysuckle. Mark Greenberg, an established bluegrass guitar master, will play mandolin and banjo. Noah Hahn, the standup-bass player for the popular Mark LeGrand and the Lovesick Bandits trio will hold down the bottom end.

Hausner said she and Schaeffer met at a bluegrass jam in the early 1980s and found their

voices very compatible. Until she moved to Vermont they were a popular vocal act in the Middle Atlantic region.

Hausner said she grew up in Teaneck, N.J., singing with her dad, and listened to Woody Guthrie and various bluegrass and folk performers as a child. She became a professional musician as a ninth-grader. After moving to Maryland after school she played music in a variety of bluegrass bands.

Hausner counts among her musical influences Ralph Stanley, Bill Monroe and Del McCrory. She also likes Hank Williams, newer country singers and Bob Dylan.

"I love duet singing from a repertoire that includes the Stanley Brothers, the Blue Sky Boys, the Louvin Brothers, and Hazel and Alice," she said.

Schaeffer was born and raised in Berks Co., Pa., and has been performing for many years. He is also a fine lead guitarist.

Hausner said she would describe her singing as "heartfelt." She said her partner's voice was both "strong and sweet."

On a demo CD of a 1990s concert, Honeysuckle was, indeed, a fine vocal duo. Both performers added a touch of the pure to the music with excellent lead vocals and sweet harmonies.

Hausner said the upcoming performance is special to her since she and Schaeffer now live in different states and do not often have the opportunity they once had to perform together.

"The upcoming performance is a special Vermont concert. Our first Honeysuckle concert in Vermont."