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PRESS RELEASE

The Island Gallery
400 Winslow Way E., #120
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-780-9500/www.theislandgallery.net

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Event:



Fire & Imagination

Sculptures of the Earth

Jenny Andersen & Steve Sauer

August 3 - 31, 2012

Artists' Reception First Friday, August 3, 6-8 pm

Featuring Original Acoustic Blues

Peter Spencer & Jonathan Green

In Concert on the Plaza



Event Location:

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Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Images shown above, left to right:

Spirit Bird Feasting at the End of the World. Wood Fired Ceramic. Jenny Andersen, Bainbridge Island.
Tea Bowl, Hikidashi #31. Wood Fired Ceramic. Steve Sauer, Port Orchard.

Artists:

Jenny Andersen's elegant wood fired ceramic vessels and sculptures evoke a feeling of mystery and the ancient past. Her ceramic chests are fully functional and as beautiful inside as outside. Jenny was recently awarded one of two Island Treasure awards by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council to recognize outstanding contributions to the arts and humanities. Jenny's award notes her contributions to ceramic artistry, her role as an arts educator and her work as coordinator of the Empty Bowls Project, for which local school children make bowls that are auctioned with a meal of bread and soup to raise funds for local charity. Through her art and her teaching, Jenny "has touched countless lives, inspiring people to live more creatively and artfully," said the nomination on her behalf.

From an interview with **Jenny Andersen**, *A Community's Treasures* by Rhonda Parks Manville, [Bainbridge Island Review](#), January 5, 2005: *Jenny's art – plump jars with elegant handles, intricate ceramic boxes, and horn-shaped cups configured with the lifelike faces of birds – is meant to move people, and to evoke a story, even if that story is different from what the artist intended. "If a piece can't draw stories out of a person, it's not a good piece. It should have some intrigue....Originality is not what I am after, but a quality that puts people in touch with the magnificence of human creativity."*

Jenny lives and works on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and fires with Steve Sauer at his kilns in Port Orchard and Seabeck, Washington.

Steve Sauer of Port Orchard has been working with clay for over 30 years. An oil painting and art history student in college, Steve was inspired to concentrate on ceramics after taking a class taught by Patrick McCormick; beyond that he is largely self-taught, having had no other formal education in clay. His evolution as an artist can be traced to contacts with many potters and artists of all media, his personal experiences, and his travels, including well-known ceramists Ruth Duckworth and Hiroshi Ogawa. Now, Steve fires with other artists, including Jenny



Andersen, at an anagama he built with artists Ken Lundemo and Mel Wallis at Seabeck on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, as well as at his own new wood kiln in Port Orchard, Washington. His tea bowls in particular are gaining renown in collector circles, and one was recently featured in the catalog book *American Shino*.

In Steve's words: *I have chosen the concept of "wabi and sabi" for the subtle beauty of the natural surface. The simplistic beauty produced by fly ash, and flame, time, and temperature in the anagama is the most appropriate for my sculptural vessels. It can be achieved no other way . . . At this time I see myself dedicating the rest of my life to wood fire. Not only in the making of my own pieces, but in the promotion, education, and maintenance of the tradition of the anagama kiln, the oldest style of kiln in the history of Japanese pottery. It has stood the test of time and for me is the most inspirational, for its ware is unmatched in its subtle beauty, organic and true-to-life processes. The community that the kiln gathers is ever-changing and soulfully engaged with one another to produce the works of its fire and artistic impulse.*

In Concert:

Peter Spencer is a fingerpicking guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, he grew up listening to the R&B and hillbilly music played on radio stations like WLAC in Nashville and CKLW in Windsor, Ontario. He began his musical career in 1968 playing harmonica in a blues band in Pittsburgh, but soon switched to solo guitar. Peter spent the 1970s touring North America and Europe playing early blues, jazz and ragtime. Then, in the early 1980s, he began writing songs, co-founding the Fast Folk Musician's Cooperative in Greenwich Village, New York, where he worked with artists like Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, Lucy Kaplanski, Cliff Eberhardt, and Jack Hardy. These recordings are part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

After graduating from The Writing Program at Columbia University in 1989, Peter retired from performing and became a full-time music writer for magazines like *Rolling Stone* and *Sing Out*. His book *World Beat: A Listener's Guide to Contemporary World Music on CD* was published by the *Chicago Review Press* in 1992.

Peter returned to performing with the 2000 release "New Hope and Wise Virgins," followed by a series of releases beginning with an album of original and classic blues called "Nobody's Daddy" in 2005. "Handsignal," another album of original songs, followed in 2006. Later that year came "Gathering Light," an album of Christmas music for solo guitar. In 2007 he released "The Blues Concert," recorded live on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and in 2009 "From the Island," another set of original songs.



His newest album, released in the Spring of 2011, is called "1896," recorded simply with his voice and an 1896 Washburn parlor guitar in a Bainbridge Island schoolhouse that was also built in 1896.

Peter has been called a "guitar wizard" by Seattle's *Victory Music News* and "a gifted lyricist with a sharp eye" by the *New Jersey Star-Ledger*. He tours regularly in the Northeast and throughout the Pacific Northwest and teaches guitar and voice at the Dusty Strings Music School in Seattle and the Island Music Center of Bainbridge Island.

Jonathan Green, born in Chicago, Illinois, joined the Seattle Symphony as Assistant Principal Bass in 1998. Before moving to Seattle, he performed with the San Diego Symphony for eleven seasons, including three years as Principal Bass, and with the San Antonio Symphony and the Tulsa Philharmonic. He has also performed at the Icicle Creek Music Festival, the Sedona Chamber Music Festival, the Colorado Music Festival (Boulder), and the La Jolla Chamber Music Society's Summerfest. He was the doublebassist for the world premiere of Music of Remembrance's commission of Paul Schoenfield's "Camp Songs," which is recorded on "Art from Ashes, Volume I."

For more information, images, or to interview the artists, please contact:

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www.theislandgallery.net/shop/
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