

**Friday, September 11, 7:30 p.m.**

**IWMF's "Comedy Night" featuring Poppy Champlin with Lojo Russo**

@ Old Brick, 26 E. Market St., Iowa City, [www.oldbrick.org](http://www.oldbrick.org)

Tickets, at the door: \$8-20 sliding scale (This is a fundraiser, so please pay what you can to keep the IWMF growing stronger!); All front-of-house seating at round tables is \$20 per person (first-come, first served).



**"Comedy Night" kicks off the 2009 Iowa Women's Music Festival with a bang at Old Brick in Iowa City! Iowa favorite Lojo Russo opens the show with her unique brand of folk-rock with some fun and humorous twists. Comedian Poppy Champlin will get the audience rolling in the aisles to start a weekend full of fun and surprises!**

From sweet folk to raw rock to aggressive funk, **LOJO RUSSO** has built her career on playing outside the box. Russo's enormous stage energy, powerful voice and percussive playing style belie her small frame. Her band history reflects her style of music - a little bit of everything. Russo's played bass in a psychedelic jam band, mandolin in a Celtic group and guitar in every kind of funk, folk, jazz, and rock combination you can imagine. Through it all she combines her sense of music with her sense of humor. Sometimes outrageous, sometimes intense, always original. IWMF knows her best as a true friend of the festival and one of the most hard-working and crowd-pleasing performers in Iowa. Visit [www.lojorusso.com](http://www.lojorusso.com) for more on this one-of-a-kind musician. [Note: Biography taken in part from [www.lojorusso.com](http://www.lojorusso.com).]



If one were to cross the sweet grooving persona of Ellen Degeneres with Denis Leary's sarcasm, the result would be **POPPY CHAMPLIN**. Poppy erupts onto the stage without fanfare, but with enough energy to take down the house in her first minute of comedy. Rapid-fire jokes interspersed with comedic songs keep her audiences laughing and coming back. Her stand-up pedigree is flawless; from VH-1, to A&E, Oprah Winfrey and Joan Rivers, to her newest gig on Atlantis cruises, she has earned a reputation of being one of the fastest witted female comediennes on either coast. Poppy currently can be seen performing her comedy in the new HBO Documentary "All Aboard Rosie's Family Vacation," as well as hosting her own popular comedy show "Cocktails and Comedy" at the infamous GirlBar in West Hollywood. Ever increasing her visibility, she is a regular performer in Provincetown and at the Dinah Shore Weekend, and the Chicago Sun Times called her "Blisteringly Funny" in her appearance at the closing ceremonies of the international Gay Games. Check out [www.PoppyCockProd.com](http://www.PoppyCockProd.com). [Note: Biography taken in part from [www.PoppyCockProd.com](http://www.PoppyCockProd.com).]



**Saturday, September 12, Noon-5:30 p.m.**

**Iowa Women's Music Festival – Day Stage in the Park**

**Upper City Park, at Templin Rd. near the intersection of Park Rd. and Dubuque St., Iowa City**

FREE to attend (donations accepted); everyone welcome. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for grass seating. Food and merchandise vendors available throughout the day. A live and silent auction will also be held. Pets welcome. Upper City Park is wheelchair accessible. For more info, visit [www.prairievoices.net](http://www.prairievoices.net) or call 319-335-1486 (c/o WRAC)

**STAGE LINEUP**

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Emcee     | Kim-Char Meredith                    |
| Noon      | Lynne Rothrock                       |
| 1 p.m.    | Tracy Walker                         |
| 2 p.m.    | Cosy Sheridan                        |
| 3 p.m.    | Carolyn Wonderland with Shelley King |
| 4:15 p.m. | Michelle Shocked                     |

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES: KIM-CHAR MEREDITH**

Prairie Voices Productions' is thrilled to announce that our great friend, unwavering supporter, and powerhouse performer **KIM-CHAR MEREDITH** will return to Iowa City to host the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa Women's Music Festival, her second year as our Master of Ceremonies. A strong supporter of independent musicians and the arts, Kim-Char hosted women in music showcases in her native Hawaii and currently produces shows in the Chicago area. She also hosts her own Internet radio station at SpiritRiseRadio.com. As a shining star in her own right, Kim-Char unleashes infectious energy wherever she goes! She has the chops to have opened for Melissa Etheridge in Honolulu, and the stage presence to captivate audiences of any size. So, sit back, relax, and let Kim-Char take you on the ride that is IWMF. Then on Saturday night, check out Kim-Char in her own set at IWMF's night show at The Mill. Visit [www.kimchar.com](http://www.kimchar.com) for more on this wonderful artist and charismatic presenter.



**Noon: LYNNE ROTHROCK & FRIENDS**

Cedar Rapids native cabaret performer **LYNNE ROTHROCK** sings an eclectic blend of jazz, country, pop, musical theatre and gospel. Rothrock has an extensive and impressive resume of music education, teaching, performing, and recording experience since receiving her B.A. from Luther College in 1985 and M.A. from Western Michigan University in 1992. The highlights of her 25-year career are almost too numerous to mention. Rothrock has lived, taught vocal music, and performed in theatre and opera in St. Paul, MN, Seattle, WA, and Nashville, TN. During her 11 years in Nashville, she began a solo career and performed at well-known venues such as The Bluebird Café. Rothrock also became a highly sought after music education clinician, adjudicating choral groups in Nashville, Toronto, New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans, Montreal, San Antonio, Dallas, Orlando, Houston and Colorado Springs. Since Rothrock's return to Cedar Rapids in 2003, she's been the inaugural performer at Brucemore's Cabaret In the Courtyard and has performed at KCCK radio's Jazz Under the Stars, while continuing to tour and teach around the country. For more on this prolific artist, visit [www.lynnerohtrock.com](http://www.lynnerohtrock.com).



*"Recalling both Diana Krall and a prettier Bette Midler with sassy red hair... [Rothrock] can sing anything, and she can grab and shake a house."*

Marcel Smith, Nashville Scene

*"Rothrock offers her audience an intimate glimpse into her humorous life and remarkable vocal talents....the songs seem to resonate very deeply within her...she has the goods, and she proves it again and again."*

Joe Jennison, Cedar Rapids Gazette

### **1 p.m.: TRACY WALKER**

For more than a decade, **TRACY WALKER** has been at the forefront of Cincinnati's independent music scene. An independent artist through and through, Tracy started her own label, Gallimaufree Records. "I'll always be this hodgepodge, stylistically," Tracy says of her musical style. "That is where Gallimaufree comes from. It means hodgepodge and that's exactly what I am." Tracy's musical style sits at the crossroads of Folk, Rock, Country, Jazz and Blues. Add to that Tracy's mixed ethnicity, bi-continental beginnings (she was born in England) and being raised in the free-thinking, creative town of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and this is what you get...a cornucopia, a hodgepodge...a Gallimaufree. Tracy has shared the stage with Indigo Girls, Joe Cocker, Melissa Ferrick, Blessid Union of Souls, R&B legend "Iceman" Jerry Butler, Tom Paxton, Holly Near, and many others. Said of her opening performance for the Indigo Girls at Pepsi Jammin On Main, "...those who care about music...were taken by Tracy. It was a startling set. We got goose bumps backstage enjoying people who were enjoying it," said Bob Elias, Event Producer. Tracy's songwriting, whether personal or observational, is broad-reaching in its ability to move you - sometimes your heart, sometimes your feet, oftentimes both. For more about Tracy Walker and her music, visit [www.tracywalker.com](http://www.tracywalker.com). [Note: Biography taken in part from [www.tracywalker.com](http://www.tracywalker.com).]



### **2 p.m.: COSY SHERIDAN**



Mythic songwriter **COSY SHERIDAN** and her wryly insightful songs have been showcased everywhere from Carnegie Hall to *The Dr. Demento Show*. In her *Live at CedarHouse* CD, listeners can sample a taste of Sheridan's live performances and see why she's been called "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful singer/songwriters" and why Acoustic Guitar Magazine wrote, "If I were going to throw an all-girl dinner party at which I wanted to laugh and cry from the hors d'oeuvres to the chocolate pudding, Cosy Sheridan is the first woman I'd invite." Sheridan is one of the pre-eminent songwriters on the folk scene documenting the

lives of modern women. She places the fast-paced culture of 21<sup>st</sup> century America into a mythic context with insightful, energetic, and at times, comic effect. Who else would think to make botox injections the modern equivalent of the beauty cream of Persephone, Queen of the Underworld? Or to find a modern Psyche reminiscing about Eros from a women's prison? Since first appearing on the national folk scene in 1992, Sheridan's been either on the road or at home in Moab, Utah writing and recording songs in her 1955 trailer-turned-studio. Sheridan's discography contains eight dynamically

creative and wonderful CDs of original music. In 2003, she created a one-woman show, *The Pomegranate Seed – An Exploration of Appetite, Body Image and Myth in Modern Culture*, which she has been performing all over the country at colleges, high schools and benefits for women's organizations and issues. IWMF attendees are sure to be delighted by Sheridan and can get a glimpse of her in advance at [www.cosysheridan.com](http://www.cosysheridan.com). [Note: Biography taken from [www.cosysheridan.com](http://www.cosysheridan.com).]

### **3 p.m.: CAROLYN WONDERLAND with SHELLEY KING**

**CAROLYN WONDERLAND** has the goods. A triple threat with her diverse songwriting, soulful vocals, and guitar goddess status — all featured on over twenty CDs, six of which are her releases — she has a pedigree in the music business that's hard to match. A bit of a renegade, she likes to incorporate elements of Blues, Country, Swing, Zydeco, Surf, Gospel, Soul, and maybe even a Cumbia into the musical mix. Along with the guitar and the multitude of other instruments she learned to play - trumpet, accordion, piano, mandolin, lap steel – Wonderland's ability to whistle remains most unusual. That vocal proficiency was well-established in the singer's midteens, landing her gigs at Fitzgerald's by age 15. Carolyn achieved success in the independent music scene as front-woman of the Imperial Monkeys in Houston, Texas. In the Monkeys, she rattled cages everywhere she



went, and the band won awards in the Houston press for everything from Best Vocalist, Songwriter, Blues, Release of the Year, to Musician of the Year – from the time she was a teenager, to the time when she had so many awards she had to move. So Carolyn moved to Austin, where she now spends her time between tours writing and recording. A series of each-better-than-the-next solo discs began with *Alcohol & Salvation* in 2001. Her music played in television series such as Fox's *Time of Your Life* and NBC's *Homicide*. Her circle of musician friends and admirers broadened to include Ray Benson, the late Eddy Shaver, Shelley King, and Bob Dylan. She began co-writing with locals Sarah Brown, Ruthie Foster, Cindy Cashdollar, and Guy Forsyth; sat in with Los Lobos, Robert Earl Keen, and Ray Wylie Hubbard; recorded with Jerry Lightfoot; and toured with Buddy Guy and Johnny Winter. Wonderland is currently receiving tons of accolades for her recent release "Miss Understood," for which she is touring the world with a stop in our own Iowa City, Iowa. To miss Carolyn in concert would be a mistake. So, "How come I haven't heard of her?" you ask. Not to worry, you will. Some in the industry have tried to pigeon-hole her talents and she said "no." History and talent have outlasted the naysayers, and Carolyn Wonderland's independent efforts to bring her audience sincere artistry in music is succeeding. Get a taste of this artistry at [www.carolynwonderland.com](http://www.carolynwonderland.com). [Note: Biography taken in part from [www.carolynwonderland.com](http://www.carolynwonderland.com).]

**SHELLEY KING** has the unique honor of being the first woman to be appointed Official Texas State Musician, bestowed in 2008. A singer, songwriter, and seasoned bandleader based in Austin, Texas, Shelley King won the prestigious Austin Music Awards for "Roots Rock Band of the Year" in 2005 and "Song of the Year" in 2001 for her song "Call of My Heart." Shelley King has been described as "powerhouse," "soothing alto," "un-crying in your beer," and "blistering" all in the same review leading critics and fans to agree that it is her big voice and strong delivery that sets her head and shoulders above virtually every other vocalist, male or female, in the state. Numerous artists nationally and internationally have covered King's songs including Toni Price who featured King's compositions



on the PBS series *Austin City Limits* and Nancy Sinatra & Lee Hazelwood who covered King's "Texas Blue Moon" on their Warner International release in 2004. A veteran of the Texas music scene with nearly two decades of professional music experience, Shelley travels all over the US, Canada and Europe performing at well respected venues and major festivals and has plans to tour Australia, Japan, and China in the near future. King has made live appearances on radio and television all over the world including recording a live concert for XM Satellite Radio and appearing with Texas State Musician honoree Billy Joe Shaver on the internationally syndicated radio program "Woodsongs." Shelley's music blends the best of folk, country, blues, and rock then mixes in a little gospel and a lot of soul to create her own roots rock style. Whether performing solo or with a group, Shelley delivers an uplifting, dynamic, engaging, and fun performance suitable for all ages.

Visit [www.shelleyking.com](http://www.shelleyking.com). [Note: Biography taken from [www.shelleyking.com](http://www.shelleyking.com).]

#### **4:15 p.m.: MICHELLE SHOCKED**

"I'm the most sophisticated hillbilly you'll ever meet." When **MICHELLE SHOCKED** says this about herself, it's hard not to crack up. 'Hillbilly,' after all, is no compliment. And frankly, it's tough to reconcile that reflex image of a backwoods, overalls-and-a-smile hillbilly with this focused, erudite singer-songwriter. If such a creature exists, however, Shocked is its picture, *sans* Billy-Bob teeth. Come to think of it, she was born in or at least near the backwoods of East Texas — and get this — to a carny father and a fresh-faced high-school mother after being conceived, if memory serves, "in the backseat of my Uncle Huby's Chevy at the prom." Her upbringing was more well-rounded. In her early childhood, Shocked logged thousands of miles as a military brat, living in Massachusetts, Germany and Maryland, before returning to Texas. She lived there until her early twenties, experiencing the stark contrast of having a fundamentalist Mormon mother, Army lifer stepfather, and hippie teacher-slash-"ultimate autodidact" father. Eager to further expand her horizons, Shocked eventually decamped for San Francisco and, ultimately, the peripatetic life of a touring musician. Shocked identifies strongly with her musical compatriots, East Texas peers Willie Nelson, Victoria Williams and Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, and not just because they're from her neck of the woods. "My family was welfare class," says Shocked, "and that makes you really, really, white trash. [These artists] helped remove class bias because they have all been given honorary middle-class value because of what they've achieved in their music." Shocked has likewise transcended class bias, in a 23-year career that has seen critical acclaim at every juncture. Having a successful span of albums on the Mercury major label, Shocked is now independent again and benefiting from the creative freedom. *Soul of My Soul*, Shocked's thirteenth album released in 2009, is a politically and emotionally passionate record about love and anger over relationships, broken democracy, and corporate compromise, written in a myriad of styles – acoustic ballads, punk rock anthems, soul and folk tunes, and no-frills rock 'n' roll – making for a provocative and eclectic mix of music we've come to expect from Michelle Shocked. To learn more about the legendary musician that is Michelle Shocked, visit [www.michelleshocked.com](http://www.michelleshocked.com). [Note: Includes partial excerpts from a biography written by Cary Baker at [www.michelleshocked.com](http://www.michelleshocked.com).]



## Saturday, September 12, 8 p.m.

### Iowa Women's Music Festival's "Pop, Hip-Hop and 80's Dance Party!"

@ The Mill Restaurant, 120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City, [www.icmill.com](http://www.icmill.com), 319-351-9529

For the past 15 years, the Iowa Women's Music Festival has been presenting the coolest and most provocative women in music to Iowa and Midwest audiences. The 16th annual IWMF is a one-up on that! After the outdoor show in Upper City Park from Noon to 5:30 p.m., come join us for dinner with the performers and a wild celebration of high-energy pop, the most artistic hip-hop you've ever seen, and the best of the 80's rock you love! Hawaiian/Chicagoan KIM-CHAR MEREDITH ([www.kimchar.com](http://www.kimchar.com)), the festival's awesomest pop-rockin' emcee, opens the show at 8 p.m., followed by Ames, Iowa's own LESLIE & THE LY'S ([www.leslieandthelys.com](http://www.leslieandthelys.com)). If you like gem sweaters (closeted or not), gold pantsuits, hip-hop, and the wildest of rides, Leslie is for you! Around 10 p.m., the show blasts into the 80's with the JODIE FOSTER CONNECTION ([www.jfconnection.com](http://www.jfconnection.com)). Break out your Hi-Tops, tight roll your jeans, and get ready to party to JFC's mix of retro pop, rock, and new wave! Shake it up! The dance floor will be open! If dancing isn't enough for you and you want to play, an all-women's jam starts around midnight! Even if you are a wall flower, DO NOT MISS THIS SHOW! The Mill Restaurant offers a full menu and bar and the best listening experience of any concert venue of its kind in Eastern Iowa. **8PM showtime; \$5-15 sliding-scale admission (This is a fundraiser, so please pay what you can to keep the IWMF growing stronger!)**

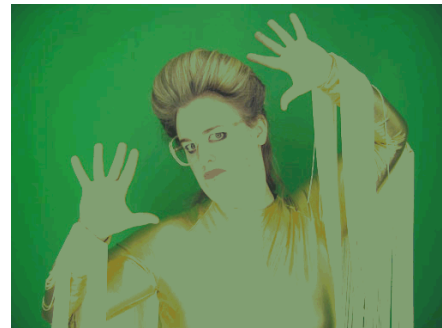
#### **8 p.m.: KIM-CHAR MEREDITH**

Powerhouse pop performer and songwriter **KIM-CHAR MEREDITH** takes off her festival emcee hat for a high-energy performance to kick off the festival's night show at The Mill. Her reviews say it all: Reviewer John Berger of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin wrote, "Meredith's performance, when she opened for Melissa Etheridge... was perhaps the best concert pairing of the year." Collected Sounds said, "...Make no mistake, she doesn't sound like any other singer I can think of, but she deserves to be categorized with some hard-hitting rock stars..." Originally from Hawaii, Kim-Char is currently based in the Chicago area. Her first five independent albums of faith-based music garnered three Na Hoku Hano Hano Award nominations (Hawaii's version of the Grammy). In 1998, Meredith went "mainstream," receiving the Hawaii Music Award for "Favorite Pop Recording Artist." Visit [www.kimchar.com](http://www.kimchar.com).



#### **8:40 p.m.: LESLIE & THE LY'S**

**LESLIE HALL** is a performance artist, master of hip-hop, internet mogul, former prom queen, and a darn funny satirist from Ames, Iowa. As front-woman of the band **LESLIE & THE LY'S**, which she formed with former classmates, her wicked artistry and amazing ability to capture an audience shows forth, shadowed only by the glow of her golden pants suit. On the side, Leslie is the operator of what is best described as a "gem sweater museum," where she has amassed 400+ different sweaters bedazzled with gems of all sorts. Leslie models these sweaters on the website [gemsweater.com](http://gemsweater.com), which has generated such Internet traffic that she made an album (CeWEBrity) just to document it. Leslie has appeared on *Unscrewed with Martin Sargent*, TechTV, VH1 (where she was named one of the *40 Greatest Internet Superstars*), MTV, and Nickelodeon's children's show *Yo Gabba Gabba!* Get a load of Leslie by visiting her MySpace page ([www.myspace.com/lesliehall](http://www.myspace.com/lesliehall)) and viewing her video "Zombie Killer" featuring Elvira, Mistress of the Dark on guest vocals.



### **10 p.m.: JODIE FOSTER CONNECTION**

Comprised of six hardcore members of the Reagan, Rubik's Cube playin', "Me Generation" era, **JODIE FOSTER CONNECTION** is a Cedar Rapids based band playing room-filling, party-starting rock and pop from the 1980's era. The group's retro tunes have rocked audiences from Muscatine's Mississippi Brewing Co to Cedar Rapids' 3rd Street Live! Aptly named with a little 80's pizzazz, band members Spider, GI McFly, Ripley, Echostein, Treble V and Riot Dawn are adept at playing a wide range of 80's hits from Cyndi Lauper to Soft Cell to Quiet Riot. And they dress the part too! Audience members are encouraged to come in 80's fashions and join in the fun! Then, dance, dance, dance! Check out [www.jfconnection.com](http://www.jfconnection.com).



### **Midnight: ALL-WOMEN'S JAM**

Everyone (women please) is invited to step on the stage and jam as a group, or to sit in on each other's songs. Magical things happen when different musicians get together and share in their art. No need to sign up in advance. Bring your instruments and/or voice and take part in the fun! Or just hang out in support. As fun as it is to jam, it's equally fun to watch and listen! The jam will go for as long as the Mill is open and musicians are willing to play.



**Thanks for your support! Visit [www.prairievoices.net](http://www.prairievoices.net) for general information about Iowa Women's Music Festival. Call Lisa Schreihart at 319-431-0982 or e-mail [iowalisa@juno.com](mailto:iowalisa@juno.com) for more information about the performers.**