

Jean Ritchie to appear in concert

April 4, 1979

Jean Ritchie, folksinger and folklorist, will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, April 13, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego. Tickets cost \$3 for general admission and \$2.50 for UC San Diego students, and can be purchased at the UCSD Central Box Office, 452-4559.

"Jean Ritchie is one of the finest authentic traditional folksingers we have in the United States today. Her words and her voice are disarmingly sweet," said a New York Times critic. Ritchie was named folk artist of the year in 1977 by Rolling Stone, which called her album "None But One," "I as plain and anciently beautiful as any mountain music ever recorded."

The youngest of 14 children, Ritchie was raised in an Appalachian community founded by Scottish, Irish and British settlers. Accompanying herself on the mountain dulcimer, Ritchie performs the music that these early pioneers brought from their homelands.

Ritchie graduated from the University of Kentucky where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Following graduation she traveled to New York City to work at the Henry Street Settlement House as a social worker. She played and sang the traditional songs for the children at the settlement house, and before long she was being invited to perform at schools and private gatherings in the neighborhood.

Her reputation as a folksinger spread, and folk historian Alan Lomax recorded Ritchie singing the songs of her people for the Library of Congress Folksong Archives. Since the 1950s, Ritchie has traveled throughout the world as a singer and lecturer, and has been widely honored for her contribution to the field of folklore.

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