

## **Six contemporary country musicians to perform in a Concert for a Landmine Free World Dec. 4 at UCSD**

**November 12, 1999**

Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, (858) 534-0497, rbaily@ucsd.edu or

Jan Jennings, (858) 822-1684, jnjennings@ucsd.edu

### **SIX CONTEMPORARY COUNTRY MUSICIANS TO PERFORM IN A CONCERT FOR A LANDMINE FREE WORLD DEC. 4 AT UCSD**

Six contemporary country singer/songwriter/musicians will entertain in a Concert for a Landmine Free World at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego. The performers include Emmylou Harris, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Guy Clark, Steve Earle, Gillian Welch and David Rawlings.

In addition to providing a lively evening of country music, the purpose of the concert is to alert the public to Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation's (VVAF) Campaign for a Landmine Free World and build public awareness to the damage caused by landmines.

"The landmine is an issue of peacetime," says singer/songwriter Emmylou Harris, who has visited a rehabilitation center in Cambodia. "Even though it's a weapon of war, it impacts people who are trying to live in peace. There will never be peace in a country like Cambodia or Angola or Afghanistan as long as there are landmines, because the people ... don't have the freedom to walk their homeland."

Proceeds from the Dec. 4 concert will go toward the VVAF's Campaign for a Landmine Free World.

Harris is a Grammy Award-winning artist who has numerous gold records and Top Ten hits and has released more than 25 albums. She emerged as a country star in the 1970s with hits like *If I Could Only Win Your Love* and *Blue Kentucky Girl*. She won a 1996 Grammy and a 1996 Nashville Music Award for Best Contemporary Folk Album, *Wrecking Ball*, and the 1996 Orville H. Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award. Among her other honors are the Academy of Country Music Minnie Pearl Humanitarian Award and inclusion in the Grand Old Opry and the Walkway of Stars.

Harris has hosted a party in her Nashville home to raise awareness of landmine issues and has handed out postcards addressed to President Clinton urging him to ban the mines and destroy the U.S. stockpile.

Carpenter debuted her first album, *Hometown Girl*, in 1987, followed in 1989 by the release of *State of the Heart*, a gold album with Top Ten singles *Never Had It So Good* and *Quitin' Time*. Within months of the latter's release, she was named the Top New Female Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music and was nominated for her first Grammy Award. These initial honors were followed by numerous Grammys for Best Country Vocal Performance/Female and Best Country Album.

Carpenter's 1999 Sony release, *Party Doll and Other Favorites*, includes her live performance with BeauSoleil of *Down at the Twist* and *Shout for Super Bowl XXXI* and *10,000 Miles* from the film, *Fly Away Home*. She performed for troops in Bosnia on Christmas Eve, 1997, and in the Persian Gulf on Christmas Eve, 1998.

Clark, called a national treasure by critics and devotees, is a pioneering figure of American roots music with such songs as Desperados Waiting for a Train, Heartbroke, She 's Crazy for Leavin' and The Last Gunfighter Ballad. The Texas-born musician has recorded eight albums, among them, Dublin Blues and Keepers, and has performed extensively throughout the country for the past 20 years.

Earle is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. His latest album, El CorazOn, features American musical styles from folk, country and blues to rock 'n' roll, turbo-charged urban grunge and historical retellings. He tours internationally both solo and with full-electric combo.

Welch's albums include Revival for which she received the 1996 Nashville Music Award for Best Folk Recording and a nomination for Best Songwriter/Artist and a 1996 Grammy nomination. Of her most recent album, Hell Among the Yearlings, Rolling Stone writes: "Nearly all the songs that Welch and her partner, David Rawlings, wrote for it are painful pictures of rural America." Daily Variety says: "Their voices (Welch and Rawlings) and acoustic guitars (wrap) around each other like reunited lovers and effectively reinforce the subtle depth of their delicate songs," praising "the exuberance of Rawlings' performance and the raw talent of Welch."

Harris says she feels people in the public eye can help bring issues such as the landmine tragedy into the spotlight. Like the late Princess Diana, the entertainers are among personalities trying to do just that.

The U.S. State Department estimates that there are 60 to 80 million landmines in the ground worldwide. One-third of the world's countries are mined. Each year, 26,000 men, women and children, mostly civilian, are killed or wounded by landmines that remain deadly long after a conflict has ended.

VVAF co-founded and coordinated the International Campaign to Ban Landmines which was co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Its Campaign for a Landmine Free World moves beyond calling for a ban and tackles the problem of how to clear the millions of threatening landmines. This includes surveying landmine areas, assisting victims, and educating the public about the menace of landmines. A Concert for a Landmine Free World is aimed at this public awareness and education.

Tickets for a Concert for a Landmine Free World are \$45 general admission and \$35 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

(November 12, 1999)