

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Sacred Blues"

– a concert by Chris Sampson

Acoustic blues artist, CHRIS SAMPSON, will be performing a concert that highlights the Sacred and Gospel side of early blues music. This benefit concert will feature works by Reverend Gary Davis, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Son House and Blind Willie Johnson among others.

April 29, 2007 - 4:00 pm
Bush Hill Presbyterian Church
4916 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310



Chris Sampson

Donations accepted - All proceeds will benefit the Building Fund at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church.

"I've always been intrigued by the intersection of the sacred and the secular in early blues music," says Sampson. "For some players of that era, religion was a great source of friction. While for others, it was seamlessly integrated into their style. Either way it was a powerful component of their music and the early blues tradition."

This concert is in anticipation of Sampson's forthcoming CD – "Sacred Blues" to be released in the Summer of 2007.

CHRIS SAMPSON – BIO

Chris Sampson jokingly describes himself as a "recovering classical guitarist". After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the prestigious University of Southern California Thornton School of Music in classical guitar performance, he heard a Delta blues player sliding a bottleneck across steel strings and has been hooked ever since. Since making the switch to traditional acoustic blues, he has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as a performer, recording artist and educator. He is frequently a guest lecturer in USC classes including Music of the Black Americas, American Roots Music, Communication in the Music Industry, and Guitar Styles in the U.S. where he presents discussions on blues performance practice and history. Chris often presents workshops at elementary schools which culminate in school children writing their own blues songs.

Chris is also the instructor for Songwriting I, II and III at the USC Thornton School. As an arts administrator, he currently serves as the associate dean at the USC Thornton School of Music. Prior to his current appointment, Chris served as the vice president for academic affairs for the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee. He has also served on the faculty of the recording industry program at Middle Tennessee State University.

Chris currently lives in Los Angeles, CA with his wife, Beth and three children. Chris grew up in Alexandria and graduated from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, DC. He's thrilled at this opportunity to play for the community in which he grew up.