

**\* \* \* For Immediate Release – Event date May 13, 2004 \* \* \***



Tracy Jane Comer

Mike Massey

Amy Curl

Michael Gruber

*(If you received this notice by U.S. mail or fax, please note you can request to receive a high-res JPG photo by email)*

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## **LUTHER'S FRENCH QUARTER CAFÉ TO HOST SECOND SINGER/SONGWRITER SHOWCASE**

Madison, WI, April 2004 – Luther's French Quarter Café will host its second Singer/Songwriter Showcase on Thursday, May 13, 2004. Performing for this show will be returning artists **Tracy Jane Comer, Michael Massey, Amy Curl,** and newcomer **Michael Gruber**. The show will run from 8:00 pm to midnight. Cover charge is \$5, discounted to \$2 for UW students with IDs.

Organized by Randy Green of Randy's Recording (Cottage Grove), the event is the second in a series of quality showcases featuring prominent, working, area amplified acoustic artists performing their own original material as soloists, in a comfortable downtown location with table seating and bar service as well as a full dinner menu until 10 p.m.

North Carolina-born **Tracy Jane Comer** ([www.tracycomer.com](http://www.tracycomer.com)) will perform and host the evening. Her mesmerizing voice, skillful guitar work and intelligent songs earned her nominations in both the *Best Acoustic Artist* and *Best Acoustic Album* (for *Second Wind*) categories of the recent Madison Area Music Awards. Her original music is subtly influenced by a background that includes classical, rock/pop, show tunes, choral music, folk, and more. She has become a frequent guest on local media such as Wisconsin Public Radio's *Higher Ground with Jonathan Overby*, WORT's *Pastures of Plenty* hosted by John Fabke, WYOU's *Worth Watching* hosted by Dennis Fawcett and WISC-TV/UPN-14's

*Urban Theater*. She has opened shows for Peter Mulvey, Mary McCaslin, Cathy Barton, and Celia, among others. She is also a member of the Madison-based acoustic trio Sticky Fingers. She is currently working on her third solo release.

**Michael Massey** ([www.mikemassey.biz](http://www.mikemassey.biz)) has won over a dozen Addy awards for original music. He has written or collaborated on over 200 songs, ranging from pop to rock, jazz to country and musical theater. For more than two decades Mike toured the U.S. and Canada. He has opened for acts such as Cheap Trick, the Go-Go's, Loverboy, NRBQ, Billy Squier, Survivor, and the Romantics. He has performed on numerous television productions including *Star Search*. Still maintaining a busy performance schedule including frequent performances at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells, Michael is known for his ability to write in virtually any musical style for scoring, post, long form, television commercials, radio spots and musical theater. Massey's original songs, mostly piano-based, reflect his enormous versatility. He is currently working on two new recordings—a piano instrumental album and a pop album, both due out later this year. He continues to produce local and regional TV and radio ads and is also working on a musical theater production that includes 10 of his original songs.

**Amy Curl** ([www.amycurl.com](http://www.amycurl.com)), also primarily a piano-based writer and performer, entertains with her musings on office dress codes, apartments not burning down, ill-behaving attorneys, and the fine art of surviving relationships. Amy's highly anticipated third CD, *Mixed Bag*, is due to be released in May. Her recordings showcase her lovely voice, superb touch on the piano and thoughtful lyrics. *Twenty Different Tries* features the bulk of her live show material, while guitar-based *Convincingly Repentant*, includes audience favorites "Give and Take" and "Pharmacy Technician."

New to May's show will be local area performer and teacher **Michael Gruber**, originally from Rochester, Minnesota. Gruber holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in guitar performance from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. His first solo recording, *Yesterday Is Make Believe*, was released in late 2003 and has been receiving excellent reviews. "The tracks run the gamut from easy swinging folk with R&B leanings, to pop songs in a band setting, to finger style acoustic instrumentals. The emphasis is squarely on the acoustic guitar and Gruber's rich baritone which places him in the company of Greg Brown and Willy Porter..." [Recent review in *Rick's Café*]

Luther's French Quarter cafe is located at 1401 University Avenue in Madison, 608-257-1184. There is free parking in the ramp across University Ave. See [www.luthersblues.com/fq](http://www.luthersblues.com/fq) for more about the venue, or [www.tracycomer.com](http://www.tracycomer.com) for information about the event.

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