

Get the Beat

Sondra Singer blends rhythm and words



Stories of Rhythm and Fantasy reach hearts and ears.

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Ask any griot: Stories and drums have a history together. Before people wrote stuff down, they not only talked and sang about it, but they often beat it out in rhythm. So the combo seemed like a perfect fit for Sondra Singer, a Lakewood storyteller and drum enthusiast who put one and one together to make a joyful -- and meaningful -- noise. Singer, a theater major in search of a more workable performance niche, settled on her calling nearly a decade ago after taking storytelling and drumming classes taught by Boulder tale-teller Susan Marie Frontczak and Fort Collins percussionist Gregory Long, respectively. Now she's released a CD called ***Stories of Rhythm and Fantasy***, the product of seven years of writing, developing and recording. Needless to say, Singer has developed a way with words...and *noise*. It's the perfect attention-getter, and it holds her young listeners rapt. Case in point: "Joy Madison Carter Makes Noise," the story of a little girl who enjoys doing just that, which delivers what it promises. "Joy" is an exercise in self-made sound effects and rhythms that gets kids into the act of making their own personal brands of noise. Other offerings on the seven-track CD -- which features over an hour of yarns, many accompanied by music and drumbeats -- are more thoughtful than purely experiential, expressing gentle messages of peace and intercultural understanding.

Singer will be joined by violinist Josh Dember and fellow percussionist Helen Trencher today at 2 p.m. for a CD-release concert at Full Moon Books and Coffees, 9108 West Sixth Avenue, Lakewood; admission is \$7, or \$20 with CD purchase (one child admitted free with a paying adult). Call 303-233-6666 or log on to www.sondrasinger.com.
-- Susan Froyd