



10/27/09 Granby Drummer

Do You Know Freddy Wilhelm?

What pops into your mind when you hear the name Fred Wilhelm? Freddy? Late night backyard concerts? Streaking at Wells Road School? Award winning artist, writer, and performer? All would be correct, but your answer might depend on when you knew Fred Wilhelm, Jr. For some, he's an old school friend who won poster contests or went on double dates. For others, he is the tractor-driving son of friends, versed in the ways of farm animals and crops, who as a boy played Ouija board in the attic with their kids. For those who stumbled upon Fred later in life, he is an award winning songwriter and performer with hits in multiple genres. To the GEF, Fred is all of these, as well as a contributor of time and talent when he appears in Granby during the first week of December to facilitate a songwriting workshop and lead an intimate evening with friends to benefit the GEF Arts Endowment.

Fred is an accomplished performer, ranging from his early career on the NYC rock scene to the Country/Americana /Bluegrass success he enjoys today from his home in Nashville. His songs appear on numerous country albums, three of which have reached double platinum status with artists Trace Adkins, Rascal Flatts and Faith Hill (yes, THE Faith Hill!) Bluegrass artists The Isaacs brought Fred's song "Big Sky" to #1 on the Christian Country charts, and lyrical collaborations have placed his work on Americana recordings by such acclaimed artists as Mindy Smith, Catie Curtis and Mary Gauthier. Recording friend and award winning writer Lori McKenna will join Fred on stage in our living room setting at GMHS at 7 PM on Friday, December 4, when they and some very special guests to be announced later spend two hours with us, talking, singing, and strumming guitars. Date night continues at 9 PM in the GMHS Commons with GEF Coffeehouse - CD Sales, yummy desserts, coffee drinks and conversation.

Fred will also very generously facilitate a workshop for aspiring poets and songwriters earlier that week on Tuesday, December 1. Further details will be posted on the GEF Website.

To learn more about these artists, please visit them on their Myspace.com pages. Tickets are currently selling for \$20 at Granby Pharmacy or online at www.granbyeducationfoundation.org. So dust off your scrapbooks and get your Fire Prevention posters ready for autographs – we'll see you on December 4!