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## Blues, Bop and Books concert on Dec. 8 in Thousand Oaks will feature the National In-Choir

Posted December 6, 2012 at 4:15 p.m.

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Contributed photo Singer-songwriter Gary Stockdale will perform with the National In-Choir on Saturday in Thousand Oaks.

Gary Stockdale celebrated his 60th birthday last month by working his butt off, performing a tight, 60-minute set of pop-rock originals for a jam-packed crowd at the Mayflower Club in North Hollywood. In the audience were family members, old high school chums and songwriter pals like Severin Browne and Harriet Schock.

Though Stockdale has worked in the music business for decades, he never considered



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himself a real songwriter, not like Browne or Schock. Instead, he was a gun for hire, working as an assistant for Lalo Schifrin; singing and acting in Steven Bochco's epic TV flop "Cop/Rock"; penning scores for '80s jiggle flicks like "Hard Ticket to Hawaii"; gigging and recording with Bill Mumy's rock band, The Jenerators; and writing music for TV series like "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" and "Penn & Teller's Bulls---!"

As he got older, though, Stockdale's appreciation for people like Browne grew, people who, he said, "have put their lives and their thoughts into perfect little four-and-a-half-minute novels, full of demons and saints and villains and victims." One day Stockdale finally decided it was time to stop writing "what other people wanted me to write" and, instead, commit himself to becoming a real singer-songwriter.

The humorous, introspective and slightly naughty songs on his 2011 solo album, "Sure of Mice Elf," are proof he's got the chops to write "about the laughter, the pain and the sweet delights of being human." And he's got the vocal chops to back up his words, too; anybody who's been to a Jenerators gig and heard him croon The Bee Gees' "To Love Somebody," or tear into B.B. King's "Sweet Little Angel," knows that.

Though he's a near-constant presence at clubs in and around Hollywood, Stockdale rarely performs in Ventura County. That will change Saturday when Saria Kraft presents a holiday-themed edition of her popular Blues, Bop and Books concert series in Thousand Oaks.




Stockdale will perform as part of the National In-Choir, a jazz-rock and blue-eyed soul collective founded by Rosemary Butler (a renowned backing vocalist who has toured the world with Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt and James Taylor) and Deborah Pearl (a singer, TV writer and playwright). "I will be singing my share of irreverent (and heartwarming) holiday songs, and accompanying Debbie and Rosie on a real piano!," Stockdale wrote on his website.

The Blues, Bop and Books concert will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Grant R. Brimhall Library, 1401 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. The Song Preservation Society, an indie-folk trio, will open the show. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for those younger than 21. Coffee and dessert is included. Call 908-2264 or visit <http://www.facebook.com/bluesbopbooks> for more information. Stockdale's website is <http://garystockdale.com>.

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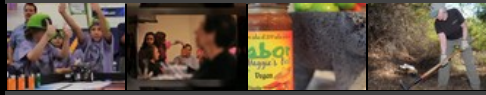
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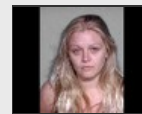
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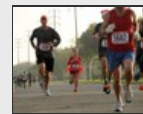
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