

# IMC ARTISTS HONOR HARRY CHAPIN IN NEW HAVEN

On June 1, from as far as Ohio, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland, the fans came to the historic Shubert Theater in New Haven Connecticut. The event: New Haven's First Tribute to Harry Chapin, a benefit concert produced by IMC Indie Artist of the Year Bill Pere, who is also the Founder and Executive Director of Local United Network to Combat Hunger (L.U.N.C.H.)

On hand were the original members of Harry Chapin's Band (Steve Chapin, Big John Wallace, and Howard Fields), joined by their sons, Jonathan Chapin and Clark Wallace. Also performing were Bill and Kay Pere, along with members of the Connecticut Songwriters Association and the LUNCH Ensemble.

The concert, with about 700 in attendance, raised money for Liberty Community Services, which provides assistance for the homeless in the greater New Haven area. The two-act show featured the LUNCH Ensemble, performing an opening set of Harry Chapin Favorites, and debuting a new song written by Bill and Kay Pere, "Time at the Table," calling attention to the disparity between rich and poor. Bill made a presentation to World Hunger Year, the organization founded by Harry Chapin, giving them a check for \$1,000, which they have done for the last 17 years.

Then the Steve Chapin Band performed 90 minutes of Chapin favorites written by Harry and Steve. Big John Wallace wowed the crowd with his famous four octave voice, switching effortlessly from bass parts, to the baritone solo of "Mr. Tanner", and the inimitable high falsetto in "Taxi." The finale had all the performers on stage for a rendition of Harry's closing anthem "All My Life's a Circle". The sustained standing ovation was a good indicator that this event is likely to occur again.

Bill and Kay Pere, through their benefit concerts, have raised almost \$1,000,000 for supporting hunger relief and family service agencies, carrying on the legacy and work of Harry Chapin. They have produced hundreds of concert events, and they regularly teach workshops on how to do successful benefit shows.



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