



## PRESS HIGHLIGHTS...

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**REAL SIMPLE** life made easier

June 2007

## Recommendations for Your Music Collection

Expert picks in the classical, Latin, and world genres, plus *Real Simple's* recommended playlist of sounds classic and new.

### Folk

“Boots of Spanish Leather,” Bob Dylan  
“Highway Song,” Aztec Two Step  
“Box of Rain,” Sloan Wainwright  
“Requiem,” Eliza Gilkyson

### Folk Music Picks

#### New Albums to Try

Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer, *When I Go*: Brilliant and masterful, influenced by everyone from Buddhists to cowboys

• Lowen & Navarro, *Live Radio*: Provocative and spellbinding songs of self-discovery

• Crooked Still, *Hop High*: Conservatory-trained musicians let loose on traditional bluegrass

• Sloan Wainwright, *Sloan Wainwright*: Her expansive, resonant voice merges with rich folk-rock arrangements

• Eliza Gilkyson, *Paradise Hotel*: Biting and poignant songs on the human condition

**Picks By:** Anne Saunders, the artistic director of the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, in Hillsdale, New York.

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" What gives the show its holiday spirit is not only the Christmas songs but the concert's enactment of a family gathering: motley, full of overlapping agendas, a little sentimental, a little fractious but harmonious in the end. Among the relatives were... aunt Sloan Wainwright, who has a rich, almost gospelly voice."

**The New York Times**

"Her melodies are the aural equivalent of smoky, tantalizing aromas emanating from a soul kitchen"

**Dirty Linen**

"Sloan Wainwright is one of those singers whose performance is a force of nature..." **Sing Out!**

"Exploring everything from childhood to September 11th, the trio delivers songs in what is not only a well-timed display of musical cohesion but also a full-throttle emotional ride. Her songs, like her voice cast a lasting spell, at times drawing the listener into a world of unquestionably heartfelt emotion "

**The Washington Post**

"...a masterful amalgam of folk, rock, jazz, blues and an occasional tincture of funk, discovering her music is like finding a treasure... "

**The Boston Globe**

"Her lyrics are not tough stances on a woman's experience, but rather sensitive explorations of childhood and the poetry of life."

**The New York Times**

"Wainwright's music is kinda like Joni, Odetta, and Yeats nakedly stomping grapes to paint wine-soaked canvases in a SoHo loft only prettier and more straightforward than that metaphor."

**Washington City Paper**

"Her husky voice, unusual phrasing and awesome stage presence has resulted in sold-out performances...."

**Westchester County Times**

"Ms. Wainwright has a powerful, earth mother voice that she pours into unexpectedly sensitive blends of folk, jazz, blues and funk."

**The New York Times**

"...(her) thick as molasses voice gets under your skin in all the right ways."

**Performing Songwriter**

"She is, however, talented enough to thrive even if her last name were, say, Whifflepickle...."

**Creative Loafing**

“... Rufus and Martha Wainwright are white hot these days, but the most talented acorn to fall from the family tree might be their Aunt Sloan. Any nut would tumble from the mighty quake that is her voice, a muscular and supple sound that soars the high scales one moment and growls with the gutter cats the next. *Life Grows Back* is a collection of original and diverse songs. Wainwright can play the straight-up folk singer, but she's also at home keeping time to Appalachian-style banjo, gritting it out to the bluesy strains of a National guitar, or vocally matching a cello's resonance. "Out of My Hands" sounds like a lost Joni Mitchell 'Blue' track, and "Something That Comes Close" has the pent-up power of a climax show tune. This is one of the overlooked gems of 2006.”

**The Valley Advocate**

“... OK, let's get this out of the way first, yes, she's a Wainwright, and yes, of the Rufus and Loudon III sort. She is, however, talented enough to survive - and even thrive - were her surname, say, 'Whifflepickle.' She's folk-influenced, obviously (you can't grow up in the First Family of Folk and not be, one imagines), but the real star here is her voice. Warm and smoky and smooth, it makes her earthy, ominous lyrics seem all the more intense. Thankfully, she never succumbs to wailing or calling attention to herself, or worse, doing the sexed-up heavy breathing thing so many twee-folk chix rely on”

**Creative Loafing**

"For the Canadian folkie sisters Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Christmas could never be simply "the holidays." On Wednesday night at Carnegie Hall the onstage crowd of roughly a score included an elder McGarrigle sister, Jane; Kate's children, Rufus and Martha Wainwright; Anna's husband, Dane Lanken, and daughter Lily; and good friends Emmylou Harris and Sloan Wainwright, whom Kate introduced as her "ex-sister-in-law.....But Sloan Wainwright garnered the most applause with the folk-gospel "Thank God, It's Christmas."

**The New York Times**

“... Sloan Wainwright is one of those singers whose performance is a force of nature. Her big alto voice wraps itself around the lyrics and then wraps the music around you. All of the 11 songs on this CD are originals, many coauthored with Stephen Murphy, her talented longtime producer and engineer.... Wainwright's songs reveal personal dramas and the stories of those within her field of view. Her songs poetically expose the inner workings of relationships using highly original metaphors and images. ... This recording is far from the acoustic singer-songwriter sound. There's ample talent here, but you must accept it on its very contemporary terms.”

**Sing Out! Magazine**

“... Loudon Wainwright's little sister has a more dramatic voice than he does, but her songs owe just as much to the 1970s singer/songwriter tradition. Wainwright certainly has her own stamp, but she still evokes recollections of Carole King and Roberta Flack. "Wild in this World" is a blues that rocks steadier and cooler than most from this demographic can bring off. "Out of Her Hands" presents an intensely personal subject in raw detail, but somehow finds its way to hope. The woman has soul.”

**Dirty Linen Magazine**

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