



For Immediate Release
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A.J. Croce Brings Soul-Drenched Folk and Pop to Carpenter Cabaret Series

His two-decade musical career includes forays into jazz, blues and American roots, and a recent focus on pop rock, inspired by his own musical journey and influences from classic soul, R&B, blues, and jazz greats as well as generations of music in his family.

20th-anniversary re-issue of "That's Me in the Bar" just released on Compass Records with bonus track featuring Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

First-ever vinyl release of the album coming Oct. 23

Re-issue features David Hidalgo of Los Lobos, Bill Payne of Little Feat, Ry Cooder and Robben Ford, re-enters radio chart for four weeks

LONG BEACH, California —His music vibrates with authenticity and verve. Singer-songwriter A.J. Croce brings his passion for an eclectic array of American musical styles to the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at Cal State Long Beach with his band for two cabaret concerts Nov. 11-12. Shows start at 7 p.m. with optional dinner service at 6 p.m.

2015 also marks the 20th Anniversary of his highly acclaimed BMG Records/Private Music release "That's Me in the Bar" produced by Jim Keltner, featuring Ry Cooder, Jim Keltner, David Hidalgo, Robben Ford, Sweet Pea Atkinson and Bill Payne. A remastered re-issue came out on Aug. 21 via Compass Records on CD (LP coming Oct. 16) with new song "If You Want Me to Stay" written by Sly Stone, featuring Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers). Stream the new song here: <http://youtu.be/B3JoXbkvzEY>

The son of legendary singer-songwriter Jim Croce, A.J.'s career began with his first tour at age 18 opening up for B.B. King. In the span of a 20+-year career, A.J. has headlined festivals, concerts and major listening

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venues worldwide. He has been seen and heard on shows including Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, "Austin City Limits," "Good Morning America," E!, and CNN, and he has shared the stage with an innumerable list of eclectic artists from Willie Nelson to Ray Charles, Bela Fleck to James Brown, Lyle Lovett to Morphine and Rod Stewart to Ben Harper.

Blind between the ages of 4 and 10 as a result of physical abuse from his mother's boyfriend, A.J. was inspired to learn piano by listening to blind pianists like Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, George Shearing and Art Tatum.

Then about a decade ago, A.J. began to create music on the guitar after curating a compilation of his father's home recordings. The recordings gave A.J. a connection to his famous father, who died in a Louisiana plane crash eight days before A.J.'s second birthday. He recently recorded songs for last year's album release on his father's old Gibson guitar. Along the way Willie Nelson said: "A.J. Croce has wisdom beyond his years. With his music, he represents his generation with a profound sense of honesty in his lyrics and quality in his delivery. The future of entertainment is safe in his hands!"

A.J. will perform with the A.J. Croce Band, comprised of David Barard (bass), Gary Mallaber (drums) and Michael Bizar (guitar). Mr. Barard was a Nite Tripper in Dr. John's band for many years and toured with Allen Toussaint as well. Mr. Mallaber has played with Steve Miller Band and Van Morrison, and has recorded with The Beach Boys, Bonnie Raitt and Bruce Springsteen. Mr. Bizar has played with A.J. for 15 years, and when not on the road he writes music for television shows.

A.J. Croce is performing as part of the Carpenter Center's Cabaret Series. Tickets start at \$45, with optional dinner service tickets starting at \$70. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Cabaret Series tickets are available starting at \$180. For tickets and more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. This series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

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