

GROWING AMERICAN ROOTS...

Something Good in the World loves to promote cross-cultural connections inside of traditional music and dance for young people, and as you may recall, the past three years we have been proud to host the amazing Youth Movement benefit dance concerts. This year, through a series of wonderful coincidences, and an awful lot of good will and hard work, rising young bluegrass star Abigail Washburn has offered to perform a benefit music concert for Something Good in the World, to help support our educational programs and promote awareness of Roots music for children – American and Chinese!

When we first encountered Abigail Washburn, she was singing American bluegrass music with Chinese lyrics. Abby told us that she learned to speak Chinese way before she learned to play the banjo, and lived in China for several years, where she was studying to become a lawyer. After returning to the US, she felt inspired to reconnect her own culture, and so picked up the banjo and learned to play. Now she is not only touring and performing in America with the all-female bluegrass band, Uncle Earl, she also tours in China with the Sparrow Quartet, doing traditional Chinese music as well as her unique blend of Chinese-American bluegrass. In March, when she is touring the Northeast with cellist Ben Sollee, she has agreed to stop by and do a benefit house concert! You really have to be there to hear the incredible beauty—and similarity—of the tonality of the two cultures blended in one musical form.

In talking with Abby about how her music could inspire children to want to learn more about American roots music, she became very interested in helping to support the programs of Something Good in the World, and also wanted to reach out to adoptive families in America with children from China. Abby's solo CD is called "Song of the Traveling Daughter," and contains two songs in Chinese. We all felt that a benefit concert would be a perfect SGITW event, one that includes families and children and celebrates the combined heritages of those who share the two cultures, in which music acts as a common language that creates a bridge for communication.

For this event, SGITW will be partnering with the Homeland Children's Foundation, to help raise money and awareness for their great work as well. HCF is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable organization that offers education and aid to children living in China's orphanages. HCF was founded in 2000 by a group of volunteers in China and adoptive parents in the US, who are working together to provide opportunities for children who will remain in orphanages throughout their childhood years. Their goal, aligned to that of SGITW, is to support the natural talents and potential of each child, and this includes older children living in orphanages who may not have access to higher education. HCF also sponsors Chinese Culture classes in the US, for families with children adopted from China, to celebrate their heritage together.

Abby wrote to us from the road, *"I relate strongly to the mission of Something Good in the World, as well as the Homeland Children's Foundation. My music, and my life, are a result of discovering through my family, friends, teachers and community that life is what you make it. I believe that if we approach our lives with creativity and our world with an open heart and global awareness, the beauty we hope for, will be."*

So, on Friday, March 30th, at 7:00 p.m., Something Good in the World will present Abigail Washburn in a benefit concert for SGITW and HCF, in the Main Residence at Hilltop Hanover Farm. This fundraiser is made possible with the support of the Environmental Resource Center at HH Farm, and the Westchester County Dept. of Planning. Because the little farmhouse only has enough seating for 50 people, we recommend that you buy tickets early! Seats will be sold at \$25 apiece, and all ages are welcome. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and seating is general admission. For tickets and information, call: 914-217-9249, or email: somethinggooditw@aol.com. We hope to see you there!...



For more information about Homeland Children's Foundation, visit their website: hometown.aol.com/homelandchina/.

For more information about Abigail Washburn and to hear her music, go to her website: www.abigailwashburn.com.