



## HOLLY NEAR

Whether on stage or screen, as a recording artist or a college lecturer, Holly Near uniquely combines inexhaustible creativity, uncompromising candor and artistic excellence. Integrating her political passions and show business experience, Holly has 13 albums recorded on her own Redwood Records label, and over 15 years of live performances worldwide. For this, Holly was honored by Ms. Magazine as "Woman of the Year."

As an artist who believes in the power of cultural work to unify and inspire change, Holly has always sought to broaden and enrich her own musical and cultural experience and bring what she learns back to her audiences. She has worked in coalition with such musicians and groups as Sweet Honey in the Rock, Inti-Illimani, Afrikan Dreamland, Grupo Raiz, and Ronnie Gilbert of the Weavers. She has travelled extensively in Central America and throughout the world, including, most recently, her participation in the first peace music festival in El Salvador. Her music and speaking reflect her commitment. She encourages her audiences to be counted among those who work for peace, social justice, and a better life for all.

Holly founded Redwood Records in 1973. Since then it has grown from a small, one-artist label into one of today's most successful independent record companies with a catalog of over 20 groups and artists.

### LECTURES:

#### 1) Singing for Our Lives

A talk about her work and development as a political artist in the last three decades; stories about the people and struggles that inspire the songs; and how music plays a powerful role in our lives.

#### 2) Sing to Me the Dream

A discussion of her work with Central and Latin American artists; the role of Nueva Cancion/New Song in social change; and how music plays a central part in solidarity work. She will focus specifically on El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Chile.

#### 3) Something About the Women

A discussion of Women's music in the 70's and 80's-the victories and failures; how racism, homophobia and class affected the development of feminist/political music.

#### 4) Unity

What does it mean to work in coalition? She discusses musical collaborations which taught her the blessings of diversity, the expectations of sameness and the dangers of isolationism.



### MASTER CLASSES:

#### 1) Progressive Songwriting

How to recognize/gather the experience that becomes the song; how to discover the details and avoid the generalities; turning rhetoric into poetry; being useful as a songwriter. Although there is some discussion of the music, this class focusses most specifically on the lyrics.

#### 2) The Art of Performance

Specific tools for performing artists to use in their work— putting together a set list, introduction, what to do with your hands, relating to an audience, stage fright, self-criticism, and artistic growth. This class is not about how to get started in the Biz or how to get a job.

#### 3) The Art of Performance (Advanced)

Come prepared to do a three minute piece for evaluation. We'll get very specific.

#### 4) Let's Sing!

A sing-along, discovering the voice, breaking the silence, community through music. Fun!

### FROM THE ORGANIZERS:

"I can't imagine a lecture program that wouldn't be greatly enriched and enlivened by Holly Near. I bring her to UC Santa Cruz every chance I get. Students, staff, and faculty beat down the doors, for they appreciate her not only as a great performer but a stirring educator and radiant human being. I always learn from her."

-Marge Frantz

University of California, Santa Cruz

"Holly made herself accessible to all who came to see and hear her. She is a born teacher."

-Margo Blevin

Davis and Elkins College