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BETHANY & RUFUS TOUR TO PROMOTE SELF TITLED DEBUT RELEASE

This incredible voice and cello duo slides elegantly between soul, funk and folk. Bethany Yarrow (daughter of folk legend Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary) and world-renowned cellist Rufus Cappadocia will take to the road with their customary blend of spellbinding vocals and acrobatic cello performances.

Selected dates on their tour include performances at The Newport Folk Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Kent State University, World Café Live, Club Passim, The New Tralf, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, The Grey Eagle, and more.

Bethany and Rufus' new CD, BETHANY AND RUFUS, to be released in the first quarter of 2006, is a stunningly simple and beautiful work, a magical blend of Bethany's electrifying voice (a combination of the husky power of Nina Simone and the open-hearted clarity of a tiny sparrow) and the mind-blowing, genre-bending cello playing of Rufus Cappadocia. With a deeply soulful sound, Bethany and Rufus have transformed timeless songs such as 900 Miles, East Virginia, and St. James Infirmary -- pushing the boundaries of American folk far into the territory of groove, jazz and sweet soul.

Bethany and Rufus first met in 1999 at a friend's late night gig at the Knitting Factory in New York City. Bethany was looking for a bass player and was deeply impressed by Rufus' playing. When he agreed to join her band, she never dreamed that he would end-up being the band. The two of them began experimenting with old folk songs as a lark, but quickly realized that the unadorned combination of the cello and voice combined with the rooted power of these old chants was a starkly beautiful combination that defied the words "folk music" as we know it and reached across musical genres and generations.

As the daughter of folk legend Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary, Bethany absorbed much of this music through osmosis in her early childhood. Her tour-de-force stage presence, mesmerizing voice and deep knowledge of the material allow her to turn these songs inside out, finding a vibrant inner pulse that resonates with a grace and power that is rare on today's music scene.

This fresh approach to folk music brought rave reviews to Rock Island, the CD that Bethany independently released in 2003 under her own name. Rock Island featured the traditional slave lullabies and prison songs that lie at the core of the American musical vernacular, yet re-imagined, Ms. Yarrow says, as "a kind of electronic pop that I called deep folk music." Blending an edgy contemporary style with banjos, dulcimers, harmonicas, slide guitars, gospel choirs, and even the sampled voices of great blues singers, Ms. Yarrow charted a unique musical terrain that she and Rufus continue to expand upon and explore in ways far outside of any conventional music box.

Rufus Cappadocia is one of the leading voices on the cello today. He has toured throughout the Americas and Europe with numerous groups and is known for his collaborations with artists from all over the world; from the Balkans to the Caribbean, from West Africa to North America. He has toured extensively with Urban Tap and The Paradox Trio; has just finished a recording with Badal Roy (who played tabla with Miles Davis) and Barney Mcall (who plays piano with Gary Bartz); a Canadian release with Hugh Marsh (violin) and Bary Romberg (drums); and is currently recording a new project, Voodoo Drums of Haiti with "Bonga" Jean-Baptiste as well as a CD of unaccompanied solo cello. After years of experimentation, Rufus plays a self-designed Five String Electric Cello that extends the bass range of the cello, and through amplification expands the tonal possibilities of the instrument.

Rufus has made a career of going where few cellists have gone before. He has appeared on CDs with Ross Daly, Kif, David Fiuczynski, The Paradox Trio, Odetta, Michael Blake, and Tamalalou. Rufus has also performed with Kasse Mady, Aretha Franklin, The Black Rock Coalition, Esma, Theodossi Spassoff, Seamus Egan, Eileen Eivers, Cheick-Tidiane Seck, Vernon Reid, and many more.

"Here's a dynamic duo destined to wow their audience... With an upcoming dynamic, yet stunningly simple and beautiful CD, the blend of Yarrow's mesmerizing voice accompanied by the deep oozing sounds of Cappadocia' cello will make a lasting first impression." -- Newport Mercury News

"Wow! This "folk music" will knock your socks off. Their self-titled debut album is a testament to the simplicity of Bethany Yarrow's voice over the pulsing lines of Rufus Cappadocia's cello." -- San Jose Mercury News Pick of the Week

For a complete tour date schedule and additional information on Bethany & Rufus, please log on to www.bethanyandrufus.com
For complete press materials, including photos, videos, and mp3s, please log on to www.bethanyandrufus.com/pressmaterials.html