

Warm up with the bard of the North Shore

Don White brings wisdom and wit to Cotuit Center

By Joyce Maroney
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Cape Codders can enjoy a one-of-a-kind performance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 4, when Don White returns to the Cape to perform at The Third Fret Coffee House in its new home at The Cotuit Center for the Arts. Don is a singer, songwriter, comedian and author whose original and idiosyncratic performances guarantee an evening to remember.

I caught up with Don recently near his home in Lynn to talk about his upcoming performance on the Cape and his reflections on a 20-plus year career in folk music. Although my tastes generally run more to rhythm and blues, I've been a fan since the early 1990s when my brother gave me a CD of Don's *Live at the Somerville*

Theater album. He hooked me with "I'm From Lynn, What Can I Say," and I've enjoyed his distinct take on the human comedy ever since.

Don has honed his talents over the years by carefully studying and incorporating poetry, comedy and theater into his musical performances. Earlier in his career, he worked at Catch a Rising Star in Cambridge and learned from the variety of comics he saw there how to engage and entertain an audience.

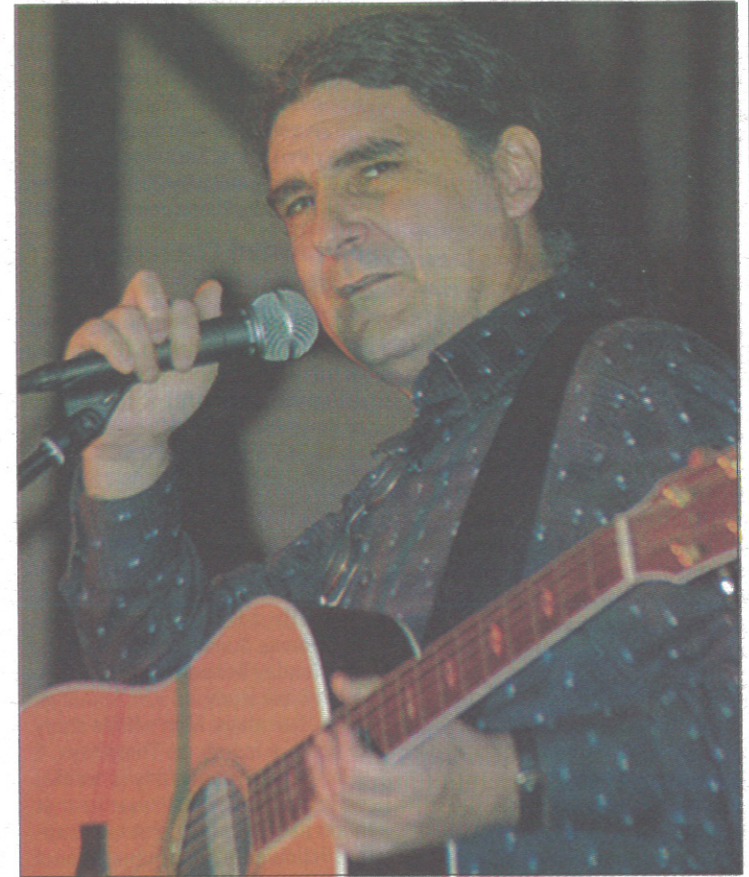
I asked Don what he hoped that audiences will take away from his performances. He quoted a Carlos Santana saying: "There is nothing more contagious on this planet than enthusiasm." Don is full of enthusiasm - for performing, writing, teaching, the city of Lynn, and most of all for his family. He hopes the universal themes of love, family and humor in the songs and spoken verse he shares will resonate with his audience - and that they'll be back again, bringing their friends with them.

Although Don now earns his

living principally from his music, that wasn't always the case. For many years, he worked a full-time job during the day while building his music career nights and weekends. I asked him how he motivated himself to keep going in the years when he was still building a career. The simple answer is that he loves performing and teaching others how to find their own voices. His advice to others, irrespective of their vocations, is to "be patient and do good work."

Don will be celebrating his birthday the weekend of his performance in Cotuit. He'd love it if you'd join him for the party. And you'll enjoy the gift of a fun night out with great music and a little folk wisdom on the side.

Tickets for Don White's Birthday Bash can be purchased at the door for \$18 or in advance for \$15. To purchase tickets on-line and for more information about the show and the venue, visit www.trespassmusic.org/venues/thethirdfret or call 774-269-3834. The Cotuit Center for the Arts is located on Route 28.



CRAIG HARRIS PHOTO

HAM ON WRY – Singer-songwriter Don White loves to perform and to amuse. He'll share those gifts at his own birthday party march 4 at Cotuit Center for the Arts.