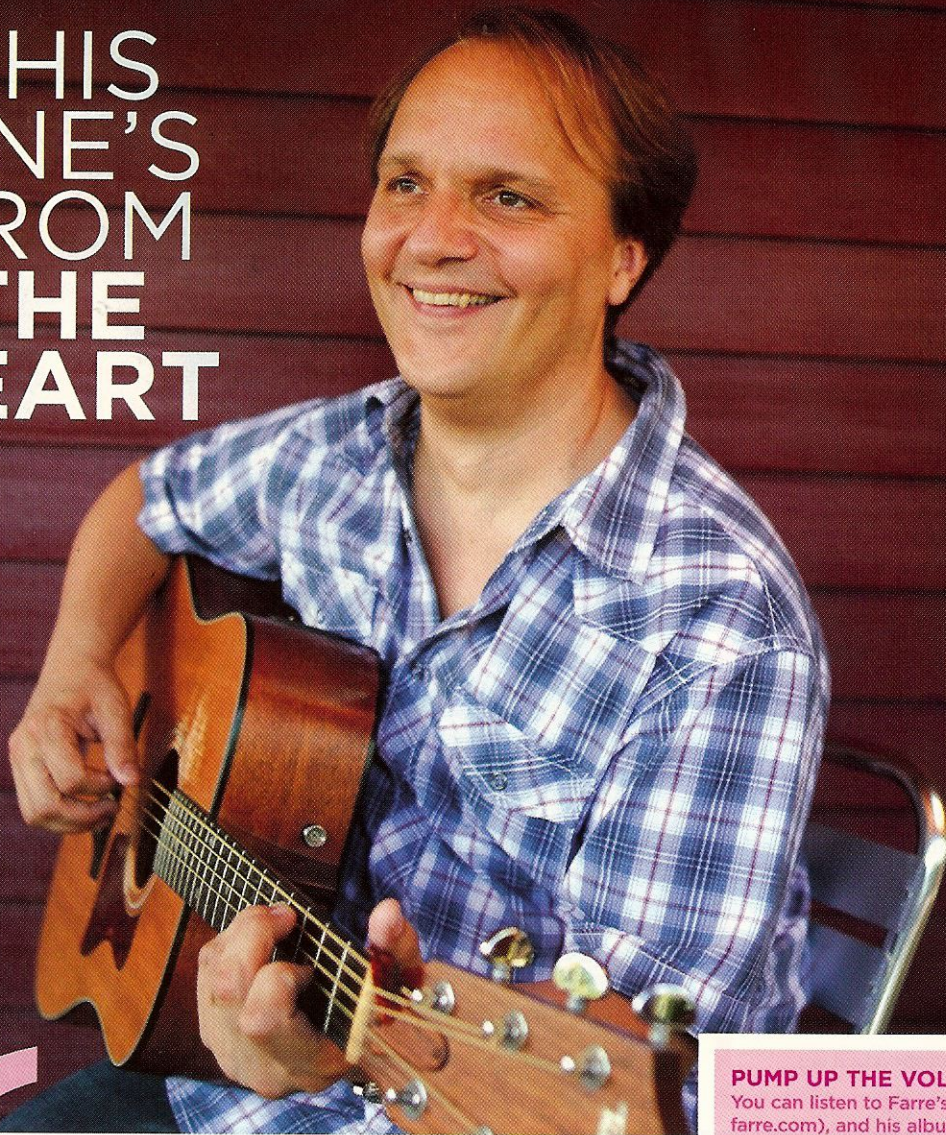


rockland confidential

NEWS, GOSSIP + OTHER FUN STUFF

THIS ONE'S FROM THE HEART



Marc Farre strums a six-string at his Piermont home.

To be an indie artist, you have to be a great songwriter; you need good performance skills, excellent computer skills, and business skills—you've gotta have it all," says Marc Farre, a Piermont-based singer, pianist, and guitarist, who released his fourth album—the airy, orchestral indie-rock LP *Secret Symphony*—in late June. "Making it in music is challenging these days, like never before."

But then, independence has its perks.

"If you make a great record, nothing is stopping you from spreading it around the world, from becoming a huge success," he says. "You no longer need a major label, run by an accountant. There's a far more fertile environment for indie artists."

Farre spent more than two years working on *Symphony*, after cancer claimed his mother. "The experience of losing her so suddenly ... I had done

three albums before, but I felt this urgency, this need to make this album," he says. Though most songs are uplifting, in the last track—"Tiny Hymn"—you can feel his pain. "I wrote that when she was very sick; it came right out of my fingers," he says. "The more I learn to be vulnerable and open to what's going on, the better I become as a songwriter."

For inspiration, he looks to the quirkier greats, Tom Waits among them. Though Farre sings mostly about romance, the night sky, and, simply, "about me," *Symphony*'s first track, "Harry..." is an "intense, dark fable that seems to be about somebody who killed somebody," Farre says. Of course, it isn't autobiographical, but the percussion-heavy "English Murder Ballad" is reminiscent of Waits' subjects: bizarre, seedy characters, sung with a touch of gruff, bringing them to life.

PUMP UP THE VOLUME

You can listen to Farre's music online (marc.farre.com), and his albums are available from Amazon.com, CDBaby.com, and iTunes. But we prefer to listen live. Here, his fall gigs:

THE LIVING ROOM \$5 suggested tip; September 14; 7 p.m.; 154 Ludlow St.; New York; 212-533-7235; livingroomny.com

THE TURNING POINT CAFÉ \$10; September 30; 7:30 p.m.; 468 Piermont Ave.; Piermont; 359-1089; turningpointcafe.com

RIVERSPACE SOUNDBITES SERIES \$15; November 8; 8 p.m.; 119 Main St.; Nyack; 348-1880; riverspace.org

This fall, Farre plans to release another album, *One Hand in the Night*, also independent. Recorded at the famous Studio la Buissonne in his native South of France, it features two up-and-coming jazz musicians—and a whole new sound. Farre says it exemplifies just another advantage of working the indie scene: "I did the record I really wanted to do, on my own terms." —Audrey Green