



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

15610 Vaughn Road  
Brecksville OH 44141

[www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)  
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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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### Singer/Songwriter John Gorka Returns to Cuyahoga Valley

**Brecksville, Ohio** – On Saturday, February 20, folk singer John Gorka performs at Happy Days Lodge as part of the Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series. The series, presented by the National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA), celebrates the cultural legacy of the Cuyahoga Valley. The series is sponsored by Akron Community Foundation, Cable 9, Residence Inn by Marriott, Ohio Arts Council, WKSU 89.7 FM, and the Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Foundation.

General seating admission is \$15 adults, \$10 CVNPA members, and \$5 children ages 3 -12. Advance sales are available until 3 p.m. on Friday, February 19, by calling (330) 657-2909 or stopping at Park Place in Peninsula. You can create your own subscription series—enjoy three great Cuyahoga Valley Heritage Series concerts for one low price! No cash refunds, but tickets may be exchanged up to 10 days before the concert. Series prices are \$40 adults, \$25 CVNPA members, and \$15 children ages 3 - 12. All concerts are held at Happy Days Lodge and begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise stated. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The accolades for John Gorka are too numerous to count! Referred to by *Rolling Stone* magazine as “the preeminent male singer-songwriter of the New Folk Movement,” Gorka continues to delight fans and music critics alike with his latest release *So Dark You See* (2009). Following the release of his eighth album, *The Company You Keep*, Steven Stone, of *Vintage Guitar* magazine, referred to Gorka as “the energizer bunny of singer/songwriters. He just keeps going and going. Each new release not only equals the quality of his last, but exceeds it.” He went on to say, “While some songwriters create great melodies, Gorka's forté is his lyrics. His songs can be evocatively beautiful.” Gorka has had three additional releases, praised for rich multi-faceted songs full of depth, beauty, and emotion.

Gorka began his career at one of the oldest and most venerable music institutions in eastern Pennsylvania—*Godfrey Daniels*. A small neighborhood coffeehouse and listening room, it has long been a hangout for music lovers and aspiring musicians. In the late 1970s, one of these was a young Moravian College student named John Gorka. Though his academic course work lay in Philosophy and History,

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music began to offer paramount enticements and he soon he found himself living in the club's basement and acting as resident M.C. and soundman. He encountered legendary folk troubadours, such as Canadian singer/songwriter Stan Rogers, Eric Andersen, Tom Paxton, and Claudia Schmidt. Their brand of folk-inspired acoustic music inspired him, and before long, he was performing his own songs—mostly as an opener for visiting acts. Though a long way from *Godfrey Daniels*, John Gorka is honored to be a part of the folk tradition—energetic acoustic music that is not a trend, not a fad, but an expression of everyday life.

### Upcoming Concerts

<i>Saturday, March 6</i>	<b>Beoga: Irish</b>
<i>Friday, March 19</i>	<b>The David Munnely Band: Irish</b>
<i>Saturday, April 10</i>	<b>The Belleville Outfit: honky-tonk, jazz, swing</b>
<i>Saturday, April 17</i>	<b>Corinne West and Kelly Joe Phelps: folk /blues singer songwriter and guitar</b>
<i>Saturday, May 15</i>	<b>Mountain Rose Spring Concert: Bluegrass and Folk</b>
<i>Friday, May 21</i>	<b>Dala: Canadian folk duo</b>

Happy Days Lodge, located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303) in Peninsula 44264, 1 mile west of State Route 8, is a restored Civilian Conservation Corps structure that provides a rustic ambiance for folk and traditional concerts, theater, lectures, and special event rentals. For more information on rentals, call CVNPA at (330) 657-2909 ext. 119.

CVNPA is a nonprofit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit [www.cvnpa.org](http://www.cvnpa.org) or call (330) 657-2909.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/) or [www.dayinthevalley.com/](http://www.dayinthevalley.com/) or call (330) 657-2752 or (800) 445-9667.

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