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Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse Named Best Small Venue at 2008 Folk Alliance Awards

BERKELEY, Calif., March 3, 2008 – The [Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse](#), the longest-established full-time folk and traditional music venue west of the Mississippi River, won the Folk Alliance Award for “Best Small Venue” in North America at the 20th annual International Folk Alliance Conference Feb. 20 in Memphis. The Freight tied for the award with Caffé Lena in Saratoga Springs, New York. The annual awards are given by the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance.

The awards were presented in a ceremony featuring former Attorney General Janet Reno, who produced a 2007 recording of traditional music by contemporary artists called [Song of America](#), and performances by Kathy Mattea, Tom Russell, Eilen Jewell, Twilight Hotel, and Anthony DaCosta. The ceremony was broadcast live on XM Radio.

The 2008 Folk Alliance Award Winners are:

Small Folk Venue: Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse and Caffé Lena (Saratoga Springs, NY) (tie)

Large Folk Venue: The Ark (Ann Arbor)

Song of the Year: “Who’s Gonna Build Your Wall” - Tom Russell

Album of the Year: Waterloo, Tennessee - Uncle Earl

Legacy Recording: *The Live Wire - Woody Guthrie in Performance 1949*

Traditional Artist: Levon Helm

Contemporary Artist: Susan Werner

World Music Recording: Loreena McKennitt

Emerging Artist: Carolina Chocolate Drops

Booking Agency: The Roots Agency

Broadcaster: Rich Warren, WFMT
Folk Festival: Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

About Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse

The Freight & Salvage has just begun renovation of a 70-year-old building in Berkeley's Downtown Arts District, transforming it into its new, 18,000-square-foot green performing arts and teaching facility. The nonprofit organization's [new home](#) at 2020 Addison Street, slated to open in early 2009, will have a 440-seat listening room, double the capacity of its existing venue. The plans also include an additional performance space seating 60-70 people, a state-of-the-art sound system, a café, and six classrooms. The [Freight & Salvage](#) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

For more information, please call Jean Shirk at 510-547-8248, email jeanshirk@freightandsalvage.org or visit the Freight's website at <http://www.freightandsalvage.org>.

About The North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance

[The North American Folk Music And Dance Alliance](#) exists to foster and promote traditional, contemporary and multicultural folk music, dance, and related performing arts in North America. The Folk Alliance seeks to strengthen organizational and individual initiatives in folk music and dance through education, networking, advocacy, and professional and field development. For more information about The Folk Alliance contact Cash Edwards at 512-447-0544 or CEMS@austin.rr.com, or Louis Meyers, Executive Director, at 901-522-1170 or Louis@folk.org.

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