For Immediate Release …..**CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**The “Remembering Pete Seeger” World Tour**

**and Album Release Concert**

**is Coming Montclair, NJ!!**

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**HOT NEWS:   
Spook’s new CD, “Pete, Woody & Me, Volume I – Keep the Flame Alive”**

**# 3 on the International Folk Radio Charts – June 2016/July 2016**

(The # 1 CD was by Sam Bush, #2 by Joan Baez, #4 by Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle)  
**3 songs in the top 20 – including “Vote” at # 2 and “Banks of Marble” at # 3**

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**WHEN:** Wednesday, Aug 31, 2016 at 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Montclair Public Library, 50 S. Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ

**WHO: Spook Handy –** [**www.spookhandy.com**](http://www.spookhandy.com)

**WHAT:** Spook’s new CD, “Pete, Woody & Me, Volume I – Keep the Flame Alive” is currently charting at # 3 on the International Folk Radio Charts with “Banks of Marble” as the # 3 song and “Vote” as # 13. The passion, purpose and spirit of folk music are alive and well and as relevant as ever in this new CD and Spook’s “Remembering Pete Seeger” concert.

**WHO:** Spook is a internationally-touring folk musician from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Besides the U.S., he has performed in 4 Canadian provinces and will bring this tour to the rest of Canada as well as Australia, New Zealand and Europe in the coming years. He performed alongside Pete Seeger more than 50 times in the last 10 years of Pete’s life, learning many of his songs and the stories behind them. “The audience will get to hear plenty of stories, and whether or not you followed his career, everyone will learn something new about one of America’s most important and influential musicians of the past 100 years,” he said.

**About Pete:** Pete Seeger is widely known for leading a renaissance of folk music in the United States. For more than 70 years, he performed across the country sharing songs that became well-known favorites including songs he wrote such as “If I Had a Hammer (The Hammer Song),” “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” and “Turn! Turn! Turn!” He also popularized hundreds of other songs including the civil rights anthem, “We Shall Overcome” and Woody Guthrie’s “This Land is Your Land.”

**WHY:** Spook Handy says “One of my goals is keep alive the tradition I learned from Pete of using songs as a tool to build and nurture community. The “right songs” will reflect and promote values that build things up, instead of tear things down.” John Weingart, host of “Music You Can’t Hear on the Radio” (WPRB, Princeton, NJ) says: "Spook Handy has created a record that certainly rests on the shoulders of the past but is unmistakably steeped in the present and what’s more, the musical arrangements and playing as well as the lyrics are rich and delightful."

Spook hopes the concert will demonstrate that the tradition of singing songs with social value is alive and well TODAY!! “While the concert will have a nostalgic quality to it, it will also present a look at the world we live in today and the world we can create for tomorrow.”

**The CD:** “Pete, Woody & Me, Volume I – Keep the Flame Alive” is Spook’s 5th full length CD. It features four original songs, as well as those of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. Spook says, “Pete told me, and so many other younger musicians, learn the old songs and the different ways they were sung by different groups of people. But change the words to keep them up to date. Write new verses about the world we live in today. And write new songs that everybody can sing.” All three of these are represented in this CD. Spook’s recording of the 1940’s song “Banks of Marble” includes two new verses about the struggles of students to pay college loans and retail workers to feed their families with the paltry pay checks they receive.

**“The passion, purpose and spirit of American folk music are alive and well with Spook Handy.”**

*… Gary Wien – Editor in Chief, New Jersey Stage*

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**“Spook let’s his hammer ring loud and true on a genuinely important album released at a propitious time.**

*… Art Menius – First President of Folk Alliance International – (“A true giant of American folk music” – Dar Williams)*

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**“Spook Handy has created a record that certainly rests on the shoulders of the past but is unmistakably steeped in the present….The musical arrangements, … playing … (and) lyrics are rich and delightful.”**

*... John Weingart – “Music You Can’t Hear on the Radio” – WPRB, Princeton, NJ*

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**MORE …** Spook met Pete when Pete invited him to perform with him at the Pumpkin Festival in Beacon, NY in 2003. Spook was immediately taken in by Pete’s demeanor and what he told Spook that day.

Beginning the very night after Pete passed in January 2014, tribute concerts were presented throughout the region. Spook participated in many of these tributes with the likes of Peter Yarrow (of Peter Paul and Mary), Tom Chapin, David Amram, Holly Near, and Guy Davis. Soon he began presenting tribute concerts both solo and with his band.

Spook says, “I’ve always felt that an individual can leave a positive mark on the world. I also eventually came to realize that I could make a difference through music. Pete showed me that it’s not just the content of a song that makes the difference. It’s the humanity and the interaction you have with people through both writing and performing your music. That’s what touches people most. Pete knew how to make an audience feel comfortable, get involved in the conversation, and be part of the collective experience.”

What began as a goal to perform a “Remembering Pete Seeger” concert in all of New Jersey’s 21 counties soon became a mission to also bring the tour to all 50 U.S. states, all 10 Canadian provinces, and many other countries.

**About Spook:** Upon graduating from Rutgers University with a bachelor’s in math and business administration, Spook turned down several lucrative job offers and instead bought a used Yamaha acoustic guitar. More can be found at [www.spookhandy.com/wp/bio](http://www.spookhandy.com/wp/bio). Spook has been named “Best Folk Artist” by Upstage Magazine and several other publications. His songs have been used in theater and film. And his original compositions have reached as high as #6 on the international folk radio charts. His song “Vote!” has been sung by dozens of other musicians, including Pete Seeger and has even been parodied by television actress Heidi Swedberg (Susan on the sitcom “Seinfeld”). In addition to performing his “Remembering Pete Seeger” concert, Spook offers “The Works of Woody Guthrie,” “America’s Story through Folk Songs,” the family concert “American Folk Songs for the Whole Family” and dozens of others programs. He also presents workshops on songwriting, stage performance and guitar. You can find him at arts centers, theaters, libraries, colleges, schools and churches.

Spook says, “Pete believed that we have all the tolls we need to shape ourselves and our world into what we wish them to be. For some, these tools are at their fingertips. For others, they are at arm’s length. And for some they are just beyond arm’s length. But they are all attainable. I wholehearted believe that, too. I hope that through the songs, stories, concerts and workshops, I can share this understanding with as many people as possible. The next step is to grab hold of the tools and put them into action.”

**More on Spook Handy,** his CD and the “Remembering Pete Seeger” World Tour can be found at [www.spookhandy.com](http://www.spookhandy.com)

**Pictures can be downloaded at** [www.spookhandy.com/wp/pete](http://www.spookhandy.com/wp/pete)

and [www.spookhandy.com/wp/press-kit](http://www.spookhandy.com/wp/press-kit)

**COST:** Free

**Doors open at** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, **shows start at** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**To reserve tickets** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_