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Jill Sobule to Perform at the JCC in Scotch Plains

Split Level Concerts at the JCC will launch its fall season with singer/songwriter Jill Sobule on Saturday, October 17 at its intimate music venue in the JCC of Central New Jersey's café at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains . Doors open at 8:00 p.m., and the concert begins at 8:45 p.m. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages and snacks will be available for purchase at the new JCC café, Kosher Korner at the J.

Jill Sobule first found her place in music history with the controversial 1995 hit "I Kissed a Girl." The song's silly sweetness masked its significance: It broke new ground as the first Top 20 national hit to deal with overtly gay themes. It was an MTV staple and brought Sobule her first real taste of success. The song jump started her live music career. She has shared the stage with Neil Young, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle and Warren Zevon.

Her unique approach -- packaging hard-hitting social commentary in a wrapper of whimsy -- has defined Sobule's career. Her endearing songs veer from fanciful storytelling to forceful satire and back again, covering a wide range of political and social issues from climate change to prostitution; anorexia to anti-Semitism. Her winning combination of memorable characters, clever lyrics, and catchy tunes has inspired comparisons that range from Burt Bacharach to Gertrude Stein. It also makes her performances and recordings a delight.

Sobule's candy-coated commentary can be found on her Huffington Post blog, as well as in her steady stream of stand-out albums, including *Jill Sobule* (1995), *Happy Town* (1997), *Pink Pearl* (2000), *Underdog Victorious* (2004) and her most recent release, *California Years* (2009).

The New York Times wrote, "Jill Sobule can claim her place among the stellar New York singer-songwriters of the last decade. Topical, funny and more than a little poignant...grown-up music for an adolescent age."

People Magazine described Sobule as "Vocally gifted and lyrically witty... a peerless satirist."

Split Level Concerts @ the JCC offers music lovers throughout Central New Jersey the chance to get up close and personal with first-rate singer/songwriters. The legendary Graham Parker is scheduled for Saturday, November 21.

Tickets for Jill Sobule are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. The purchase of a ticket for the Jill Sobule concert allows you to buy a ticket for Graham Parker before they go on sale to the general public on October 18. Tickets for both Jill Sobule and Graham Parker are \$45 in advance. Seating is limited, so advance ticket purchase is recommended. Purchase tickets on line at www.jccnj.org or contact Simone Klein at 908 889-8800 ext. 214 or sklein@jccnj.org.

For more information about Jill Sobule, visit www.jillsobule.com. For more information about Graham Parker, visit www.grahamparker.com.

The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains . The JCC of Central New Jersey is a constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, United Way and the United Fund of Westfield. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs.

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