



Playing upside down with Janet Connerney

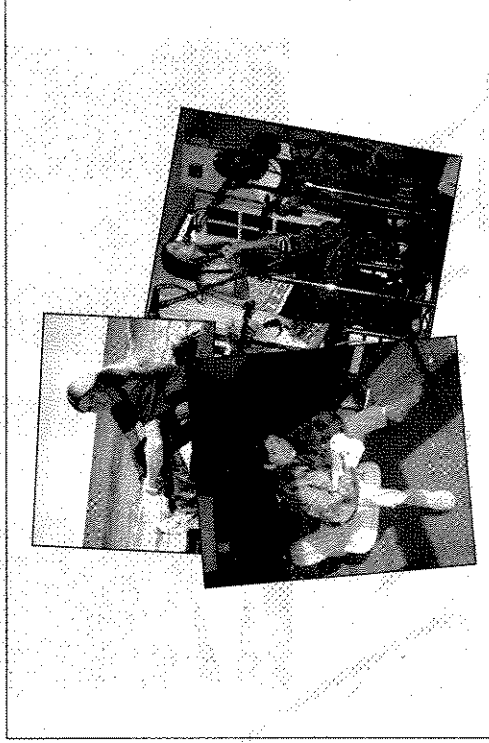
Somerville artist Janet Connerney has a unique style of self-taught guitar playing. She is left-handed and plays a right-handed guitar upside down. "I learned guitar by myself because the first time I went to take lessons the teacher turned the guitar around for me and said 'learn this way.' I went home never to return and just taught myself chords with my little books and I was on my way to upside down adventures in music that can be fun!"

Connerney, who can be seen playing in Harvard Square most weekends, said her music comes from within her spirit. "Spiritual battles with my own demons of character make me write songs. It is like God gave me song writing to help

me work out the kinks in my own personality. Not every one likes me or my music but for those who identify with me can find comfort, humor and solace in my stuff... I want to reach people in that way and make them feel good—what songwriter doesn't?"

Connerney has performed music since she was a teenager, at church ceremonies, talent shows and coffeehouses in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire where she has spent many summer nights.

Connerney has played at venues including Club Passim, The Cantab Lounge, All Asia, Naked City, and The Nameless. She has shared the stage with some of Boston's best musicians, such as Colleen Sexton, Mary



Janet Connerney

Lou Lord, Nash Satterfield, Pamela Means, Dar Williams, Kevin So and Donna Martin. But she said the greatest benefit of her work is quite simple. "My favorite part of performing my originals is the cathartic benefit it has on my soul and hopefully others. I want to touch people on that level. That is my goal always," she said. "I want to reach people in that way and make them feel good—what songwriter doesn't?"