



# News Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Dominick Albano, Reputation, LLC, 415.921.8000  
Tisha Floratos, Olivia 510.655.0364, x113

## Olivia Announces Meg Christian's Return Performance Aboard Its Alaska Discovery Cruise

*Music Legend Makes Only Her Second Performance In Two Decades*

---

**OAKLAND (Jan. 2, 2003)** — Olivia, the world's largest and best-known provider of travel services for lesbians, and their families and friends, today announced the signing of women's music legend Meg Christian for Olivia's Alaska Discovery Cruise, May 18-25, 2003, aboard Holland America's five-star ms Veendam.

Meg Christian, who now goes by the name Shambhavi Christian, delighted fans on Olivia's 30th Anniversary Scandinavia cruise in August 2002 with her first performance in nearly two decades since leaving public life to devote herself to Siddha Yoga.

"I will forever treasure the opportunity to see Shambhavi (Meg) Christian perform again," said Olivia guest Anita Blanchard. "Her joy spilled out for us all to see and I appreciate her coming out into the world to sing for and be with us."

Judy Dlugacz, president and founder of Olivia, said, "When Meg retired from performing women's music there was a void. As one of the very first artists to embrace being out in her music and performance, Meg had a profound influence on women who were just developing a feminist consciousness and discovering their own sexuality. She was also a major force in the development of women's music, creating opportunities for women to perform and record their own music."

A pioneer in women's music and founding member of Olivia Records, Christian, 57, has

(more)

continued to play music as an expression of her spirituality. "Well, it was quite interesting to dust off a bunch of songs I hadn't sung in 18 years," she said. "These old guitar fingers were in shock at first, but I was amazed to see what they've retained."

While she hadn't played the old tunes in years, her performance was flawless.

Her current path keeps her removed from public life, "I'm one of a small percentage of Siddha Yoga practitioners who actually live in one of our Ashrams (spiritual communities)," she said. She also teaches music and has recorded a few albums about her spiritual journey.

Returning to the music of her 20s and 30s was about connecting her past and her present, Christian said. "The concert really gave me a chance to look back on my life and recognize the core continuities in all my experiences. I feel more integrated as a human being. It's a beautiful and profound thing, and I wish everyone could have such an opportunity."

Her first performance was a chance to catch up with the other founders of Olivia, who banded together 30 years ago in an effort to empower women through music and activism.

"It was an experience filled with joy, fun and sweetness -- a perfect way to reunite with old friends and share memories of our historic adventures together," Christian said of the experience. "I feel a renewed respect for what we accomplished with Olivia Records. And I loved seeing how our common past has led each of us into such interesting, fulfilling lives. What great, wise and wonderful women we've become!"

Founded in 1973, Olivia Records set its sights on helping women break into the male-dominated recording industry.

In 1990, Dlugacz, the sole remaining founder, chartered a ship and invited Olivia's music fans to a concert on the water in what became Olivia Cruises & Resorts inaugural voyage. Now, 12 years and nearly 60 successful voyages later, Olivia is the leading company offering unique travel for women.

(more)

Christian finds much of the founders' vision and spirit in Olivia's travel experiences. "It was great finally to see firsthand how much the cruise experiences mean to participants. Above all, I was tremendously impressed with how lovingly the Olivia

staff treats everyone they work with," Christian said. "Each person is valued. Every

detail is handled with respect and care. To me, this is the highest fulfillment of Olivia's original vision."

Dlugacz eagerly anticipates Christian's return on Alaska. "To have Meg back, even for a brief time, is truly remarkable and emotional for all of us who were touched by her music."

Christian joins the first lady of lesbian comedy Kate Clinton, the hilarious Georgia Ragsdale, the outrageous Elvira Kurt and the incomparable Lucie Blue Tremblay on Olivia's Alaska Discovery Cruise from Vancouver to Seward, May 18-25, 2003, along with special guest author and activist Betty DeGeneres.

### **About Olivia Cruises and Resorts**

Olivia is the world's largest and best-known provider of travel services for lesbians, and their families and friends, reaching more than 2.5 million women internationally. In 2003, Olivia will celebrate 30 years as a catalyst for social change that connects, transforms and celebrates the lives of women through music and travel.

# # #