

The next Billy Joel?

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By Art Eldelstein

Seth Glier, a singer-songwriter-pianist from Western Mass., makes his first Montpelier appearance on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Langdon Street Café. Don't miss it.

Glier sent the Times Argus his CD, "The Trouble With People," and after several spins in the player this writer is impressed. This young performer –he's 20- sounds a bit like an early Billy Joel, with some Gregory Douglas and (1960's singer-songwriter) Tim Buckley mixed in. His piano style is reminiscent of Randy Newman as is his take on life.

Glier's voice really soars on some cuts, a' la Douglas, but the key to this performer's talent is the thoughtful lyrics sung to sparse, yet rich piano chords or guitar riffs. Glier, for one so young, has got a very good handle on the human condition. He chooses interesting metaphors and doesn't rely on the stock works and phrases many writers use to make their lyrics rhyme or fit the meter of the song.

Glier delivers a very solid program on this 12-track recording. Using piano, guitar along with bass and drunk and occasionally a string quartet. This is generally quiet yet effective album.

At his Langdon Street performance, even if you've never heard this song, demand he sing "I Just Want to Make My Daddy Proud." I won't give away the punch line, but this young performer has captured a moment in time far better than most of his songwriting fraternity ever did.

Glier, while as yet unknown, is a rising star. Catch his act if you can in the intimacy of the café, he'll be playing much larger venues soon.