



For Immediate Release:

5151Penn Gallery to Host Phil Blank / Ben Hartlage Collaboration

PITTSBURGH, PA --- Phil Blank returns to Pittsburgh to exhibit his collaboration with local singer-poet Ben Hartlage, *Frozen Songs*, along with other recent works. The show will open with a reception at 5151Penn on Friday April 6, 2007 from 7-11pm. The show highlights paintings inspired by Ben Hartlage's songs and additional works from the last two years inspired by "weird old music, diner owners, personal failings and romantic regrets." To close the show, Ben Hartlage will be performing some of the featured songs in an intimate "house concert" on Friday April 27, 2007 from 7pm-8pm. A public reception will follow the concert from 8pm-11pm.

Phil Blank's life was changed after he found Big Bill Broonzy records in the Free Library and heard real singing for the first time on a subway platform in 1980s NYC. He once played string band music around Pittsburgh, but now lives and paints in Carrboro, NC. His work has been shown in NYC, Philadelphia, and can be seen in the Old Time Herald, various weeklies and record album covers.

Ben Hartlage is a songwriter & poet from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He started writing songs soon after Johnny Cash passed him on an exit stair and said "Hi there." Since then, Ben's songs have aired internationally, banking him a cool \$44.37 in royalties through Broadcast Music, Incorporated.

The opening reception on Friday, April 6th will include food and beverages. The show concludes on Friday, April 27th with a concert and closing reception. Otherwise, 5151Penn will be open via appointment.

The gallery is located at 5151F Penn Avenue, in the heart of the arts corridor. For additional information about the space or upcoming shows, please visit the gallery website at <http://5151penn.com/> or send email to FrozenSongs@5151Penn.com.