

Local artists raise voices for literacy

Alice Peacock and others devoted to the cause

BY DAVE HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

The nights are long in rural Minnesota, which explains in part why singer Alice Peacock loves books. When she was a child growing up in White Bear Lake, a half-hour north of St. Paul, she repeatedly read E.B. White's *The Trumpet of the Swan*.

"I loved the story about the trumpet swan that didn't have a voice," Peacock said in an interview at the Local Option, the Lincoln Park tavern and restaurant owned by her husband Hugh. "The swan's father stole a trumpet from a music store in Billings, Mont., so his son could have a voice and court a young swanlette."

Years later, Peacock's childhood favorite has become the clarion for Rock for Reading, a music festival that promotes literacy.

The nine-hour event begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the New City YMCA Grounds, Halsted and Clybourn, with music stars Otis Clay, Kurt Elling, Von Freeman, Robbie Fulks, Kelly Hogan, Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick, Nora O'Connor, Jim Peterik, Cathy Richardson and others.

ROCK FOR READING

When: 1 p.m. Saturday
Where: New City YMCA Grounds, Halsted and Clybourn
Tickets: \$10
Phone: (773) 868-3010

WHAT ARE THEY READING?

Rock for Reading participants list their favorite books:

Alice Peacock

1. *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White
2. *The Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
3. *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand
4. *Woody Guthrie: A Life* by Joe Klein
5. *The Riverside Shakespeare*

Kelly Hogan

1. *My Ears Are Bent* by Joseph Mitchell
2. *Pastoralia* by George Saunders
3. *Lemony Snicket* collection
4. *Collected Stories* by Dorothy Parker
5. *Norwood* by Charles Portis

Otis Clay

1. *Before the Mayflower (A History of Black America)* by Lerone Bennett Jr.
2. *Helter Skelter* by Vincent Bugliosi
3. *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown
4. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
5. *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* by William L. Shirer

