

Music: Garthwaite, Hawkins And Sorrels Weave Folklore

TERRY GARTHWAITE, Bobbie Louise Hawkins and Rosalie Sorrels have been touring together on and off for several years, weaving music and storytelling into fascinating evenings of impromptu modern folklore.

At the very least, the way the three women use their formidable talents to ring changes on a theme creates the atmosphere of a hip quilting bee. At Folk City late Saturday, their songs and stories were related by a poignant thread of cosmic humor. Miss Garthwaite, a bewitchingly subtle pop-jazz singer and rhythm guitarist, set the evening's psychedelic tone with a resurrection of a little-known Ella Fitzgerald song, "I Get High."

Miss Hawkins, a superb impressionist, as well as a salty prose writer of American miniatures, followed with a Ruth Draper monologue. Miss

Sorrels told of the political furor that erupted after she booked Pete Seeger into an Idaho college in 1968, then capped it with a riveting a cappella rendition of Mr. Seeger's "My Father's Mansion Has Many Rooms."

In a two-hour set of four round-robin performances, the music ranged from Alberta Hunter to Dory Previn. The subjects touched on included today's Berlin, the iconography of the American car, daughters-in-law and the kind of art that would be useful on space shuttles.

Recordings of the best of these events, which are artful distillations of Americana today, would indeed be useful on space shuttles as reminders of our humor and humanity and of our common bonds in folk art.

Stephen Holden