

Legendary “Spider” John Koerner makes his first appearance at the Bayfront Blues Festival this year. Koerner is likely best known as the guitarist for the trio Koerner, Ray, and Glover during the early ‘60s with a country-blues style. Their fun-loving attitude and foot-stomping performances helped revive folk and blues music. Koerner has been made famous more recently through the autobiography of Bob Dylan, how it refers to Koerner as an important influence and someone that Dylan enjoys playing with. Koerner recently played in Hibbing at Dylan Days. Koerner, Ray, and Glover were based out of Minneapolis and enjoyed success not only at clubs and parties, but also in the recording studio. A gem, *Blues Rags & Hollers*, recently reappeared through Red House Records, complete with four tracks lost during the original production and release. Koerner kept up his solo career and in 1969 recorded the classic Elektra album *Running, Jumping, Standing Still* with Willie Murphy. During the ‘70s and ‘80s, Koerner, Ray & Glover reunited for special shows, including folk festivals in Winnipeg and Vancouver, and Sing Out! Magazine’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert. One of their last trio shows in 1984 formed the foundation for *Blues, Rags & Hollers: The Koerner, Ray & Glover Story*, a two-hour performance documentary video produced by



## Spider John Koerner

Glover. The Minnesota Music Awards named Koerner, Ray & Glover “Best Folk Group” and has elected them to the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame along with Bob Dylan and Prince.