

SOUND WAVES

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THE BIRD'S WORD

Don Bird, Artistic Director

Well our 29th anniversary party is right around the corner and we hope you are ready to celebrate with us. The Summerfolk committee has been burning the midnight oil insuring that your annual visit with us will be filled with nothing but pleasant memories. We would prefer to think that your memories of this year's blast will be unforgettable given the performers we have invited. Spotighting Summerfolk's Singers is one of many threads winding thru our "envied" showcase of stars this year. The accolades have been pouring in - mostly from fellow music presenters in Canada, literally "raving" about the line up. It would appear, from those in the know, that we have achieved a "unique" schedule of special folks ready to royally entertain us this year.

And how is this for "special memories?" In 1957 in a small hall in Chatsworth Ont. is were it all began for former Owen Sounder B.W. Pawley. Who would have thought from that one night at the legion would have resulted in 27 yrs. on the

road and 4 years being served with Ronnie Hawkins & The Hawks. In that time span he has had the opportunity to work shows with John Lee Hooker, Conway Twitty, Tanya Tucker, George Thorgood and so on. The present Band consists of just good friends. John Till on guitar, formerly of Janis Joplin's Full Tilt Boogie Band, Ken Kalmusky on bass previously with the original Ian & Sylvia Great Speckled Bird Band and of course Billy Hilton on drums who has over 40 yrs. of experience. The influences come from every area of music Folk, Rock, Country, Blues jazz etc. As their former drummer, it is a rare treat to present Brian with this wonderful band performing their main concert in the Down By The Bay tent on Friday evening. "Welcome home, Brian."

As a sidebar, recently there was a music documentary released on the "Festival Express" featuring the famous train tour with The Band, Grateful Dead, Flying Burrito Bros., Ian & Sylvia and Janis Joplin amongst many others. John Till (from Janis' band) is interviewed numerous times during the project and if you were a fan of that music era, we cannot recommend the movie high enough. It is wonderfully



shot, has great sound and a decade of memories. Why not plan on catching John, Brian and the rest of the band on Friday night's second stage performances?? This will be their only Ontario festival appearance this summer so once again Summerfolk has scooped the industry - with another 'unique' performance.

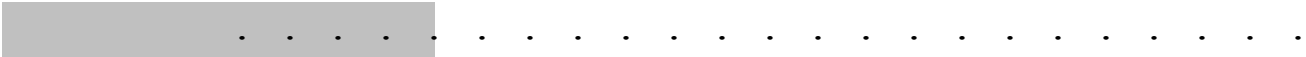
Our workshops this year have taken a large step forward in terms of diverse programming. Some attend our festival mainly for the daily combinations of performers on our numerous stages. This year they will be treated to everything from a "Guitar Pull" hosted by Jesse Winchester, a 'world music' set hosted by James Keelaghan featuring a couple of our "off the continent" music performers called "Music is the glue," tons of musical memories with The

Kennedys and The Niels doing "Beatles after breakfast", our insanely funny "Summerfolk Quiz" with Connie Kaldor, and Chuck Brodsky captaining the two teams - both of whom are hysterical anyway. The dance oriented "Meltdown" closing our beer tent late Sunday afternoon this year proudly presents "Enter The Haggis" who refuse to let you sit down during their shows. Toss in our much requested Gospel show Sunday morning and The Summerfolk Choir which will be hosted this year by veteran session player Tom Leighton and the list of reasons why you should not miss a moment of our 29th celebration just keeps on growing.

Our show this year not only features some widely diverse programming but is also conscious of "setting the table" for next year's 30th Anniversary

party. To say that we have been actively selecting some of those 'delicious little surprises' that folks have been religiously returning to Kelso each year would be an understatement. We have put on hold the most requested performers that for one reason or another didn't make this year's show. But we have got an extremely exciting production programmed for your musical appetite this year and we sincerely hope you accept our invitation to "your favorite festival."

Thanks for your support during our past ten years as your Artistic Director. See you at Kelso.



GATHERING INFORMATION

By David McLeish

Listening to ...

I listen to a wide variety of music but folk is always in the rotation somewhere. I won't try to define folk because it means so many things to different people.

Lately, we have been trying to help young people learn more about folk music by supporting their musical interests. While they are willing to learn some of the old tunes they tend to define folk rather broadly (e.g. Red Hot Chili Peppers, Led Zeppelin, and Sheryl Crow). A wise man (Pete!) once told me that Led Zeppelin IS folk music since Zep's roots derive from the delta bluesmen.

Mermaid Avenue - Billy Bragg and Wilco

Lately, I find myself listening to a few golden oldies like Bruce Cockburn's Night Vision, lots of Neil Young and some non-Cancon. A few years ago Billy Bragg and Wilco got together to put music to a number of previously unrecorded songs by the late great Woody Guthrie. They worked with Woody's daughter to access the vast archive of material that was never recorded. The first of these recordings was Mermaid Avenue, named after a street where Woody lived. I find myself picking this one up again and again. If you haven't listened to this record I highly recommend it. The depth and

charm of Mr. Guthrie's lyrics provide a constant thread to the musical fabric supplied by Billy and Wilco. From the catchy melody of 'Walt Whitman's Niece' to the rhythm of 'Way Over Yonder in the Minor Key' this album provides a glimpse of the past though the eyes of some of today's most talented musicians. The lyrics are, of course, without compare, sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always thought provoking. The music is solid, as would be expected from such a group of tried and true talents. If you haven't heard this one yet I'd recommend it.

Einsteins Brain - Nathan Caswell

Another CD I've been spinning lately is a little more recent. Einsteins Brain (2003) is a wonderful gem by Nathan Caswell, a singer songwriter originally from Thunder Bay who now lives in New York. The title song is an off-beat journey through the desert with, you can guess what, in a mason jar. The remainder of the album is consistently good and features some well known Canucks such as Brent Titcomb and Curly Boy Stubbs.

Nathan's website describes "him as "the baby brother of the Barenaked Ladies and Billy Bragg," or what you might get "if you crossed Ogden Nash with Lenny Bruce and mixed in the sound of Cat Stevens," singer-songwriter Nathan Caswell performs a quirky brand of

modern folk, characterized by a playful intelligence and a strong sense of irony." I tend to agree.

Visit Nathan's website www.nathancaswell.com to find out more about this talented young performer.

David

OPEN MIKE NIGHTS

Join us at the Old Courthouse Theatre, 1235 3rd Ave East, Owen Sound (above the GBFS office) the second Friday each month starting in October at 7 pm for our open mike series.

Players are invited to perform 3 or 4 previously rehearsed tunes: originals or covers. All ages are welcome, sign up at the door. We especially welcome young performers to come out and develop their talent.

There will be a professional sound system and lighting. The room seats 55 comfortably.

All Courtroom Theatre events are open to members of the GBFS- folkie memberships \$5 CDN are available at the

BRENTS **“DISC” OVERIES**

By Brent Jeffries

“May Queen”-Heather Dale
Amphisbaena Music, 2003

May Queen by Heather Dale is a musical excursion through the vast lakes and forests, castles and chambers of the King Arthur legends. It is a collection of delicate tales of Arthur from a woman's perspective, Dale's and the women she sings and writes about. This is a rich, celtic, folk album filled with beautiful classical moments and outstanding blues. The album was recorded, mixed and mastered in world class studio facilities (Manta DSP and Phase One), and features the talents of acclaimed engineers Gary Gray (Gordon Lightfoot, Bruce Cockburn) and George Seara (Anne Murray, Pink, Cirque du Soleil).

The title cut is somewhat magical. Rich vocals wrap themselves around guitar and piano like graham wafers covering marshmallows and chocolate on smores. The title cut is a beautifully, crafted lullaby entitled “As I Am”, based on Arthur’s marriage proposal to Guinevere. Dale gently wraps her sweet vocals around the instruments that seem to serenade her.

“As the songs for this album fell into place, I was struck by my own progression within the King Arthur legends” states Dale in the liner notes. “In writing material for *The Trial of Lancelot*, I had focused almost exclusively on

endings...*May Queen* has brought me, perhaps belatedly, to the many different beginnings within the tale.”

In the style of Eileen McGann and Sarah McLachlan, Dale blazes through “Kingsword”, a testimony to King Arthur’s legendary blade Excalibur. “Originally it was a tool in the hands of Merlin and Nimue (the Lady of the Lake), and used to fulfill their dream for Britain.” This track is gentle foreshadow of things to come. Specifically, the next track “The Lady of the Lake”, a handsomely, crafted love song, retelling the sweet, story of young Merlin and the ageless nimue. Close your eyes during this track, and you will be transported to a meadow, high in the hills, where an exquisite young lady, dressed in white, lies in the tall grass, receiving gentle caresses from a young, wide-eyed wizard. Violin and Cello weave instrumental magic for the listener’s ear and aid in the transportation. Dale has assembled many outstanding musicians on this album and their personal gifts, make this a delightful and important compilation. This is a must for everyone’s CD collection. A must for Sunday mornings, quiet reflection, candlelit dinners or just driving down a country lane with the top down.

From the bluesy "Prodigal Son" to the sultry "War Between Brothers" and "Lady of the Lake"; Dale's music delivers passion, conviction and importance. This is a wonderful eclectic mix of new and old styles played magnificently by 12

gifted musicians. The mix of keyboards, guitar, tin whistle, pipes, with the strings and brass form an orchestrated mix that is Celtic, folk and blues all wrapped in one. Endearing vocals complete the picture as history unfolds before the listener. A well produced album that is a triumph. Her bio describes her as a “Modern Celtic singer-songwriter who shifts easily between the ancient and the modern. While her inspiration is firmly rooted in Celtic mythology and history, her musical style is anything but traditional.” Her first solo performance in 1997 has lead her down a tremendous musical path that has blossomed into festival bookings, conference and convention performances throughout North America and the UK.

Audiences at Owen Sound’s Celtic Festival, September 17, 18 & 19 will have a chance to see and hear Heather during the Saturday daytime festivities downtown. She will perform with her band consisting of Guitar, Bass, Drums, Cello and herself on Piano and lead vocals. I recently spoke with her on the phone regarding the upcoming show. “Audiences will hear gentle four part harmonies on many of the songs” she said and they will hear a cross section of her music from her four CD releases, For more info on Heather Dale go to www.amphismusic.com “Tales from the Past, Music for the Future”

BRENT'S**"DISC-OVERIES"***By Brent Jeffries*

Endomusia-James Gordon
Borealis Records-2004

Endomusia is the latest recording by one of Canada's most endearing and prolific songwriters. James Gordon, who resides in Guelph, Ontario, returns his listeners to a rootsy sound with fourteen outstanding tracks. Gordon is known to many North Americans as the founder of Canada's premier folk group Tamarack. With Alex Sinclair and Jeff Bird, he toured every corner of the continent, recorded fourteen albums and made several TV and Radio appearances. The disc was produced by Gordon at his "Pipe Street Studio" and he plays most of the instruments himself including banjo, guitar, trumpet, accordian, harmonica, piano, tin whistle & hammer dulcimer. His next door neighbour, Sandy Horne (The Spoons) plays bass and Marion Linton is featured on fiddle. This is the follow-up album to "One Timeless Moment" which Gordon recorded in 2002 with Horne at the River Run Centre.

Once again Gordon has taken his faithful listeners down a well travelled road with guitar in hand and a notebook full of experiences. Endomusia continues to tell stories of the events in our world, that threaten to change our world forever. This is a feel good album about many

"not so feel good" subjects. Weapons, war and big box stores are on the serving plate but Gordon has a unique way of making it all sound so good! A mini Tamarack reunion with Jeff Bird (Cowboy Junkies) and Alex Sinclair (Tamarack), opens the disc on "Small Town Prairie Gigs" and Gordon is joined by other great players including Stephen Fearing, Jude Vadala (Bird Sisters) and Donna Creighton (Sirens) and his two musical kids Geordie Gordon and Evan Gordon. Stephen Fearing's vocals on "Weapons of Mass Instruction" and the Scottish Ballad "The Bonny Earl of Murray" are stunning. Gordon is not afraid to tell it like it is. In describing "To the Walls" Gordon writes in the liner notes "my hometown has been a haven for the alternative, progressive community for a number of years. An oasis in what has become a desert of strip malls and big box stores. The results of our recent municipal election threatens to change all that." On the track "Mesopotamia" he writes "the imperialist invasion of Iraq made many of us question the current state of our civilization, and it seems ironic that this action took place in the very birthplace of that civilization." This compilation is further testament that James Gordon will continue to be a driving force in the Canadian Folk community. This is a must for Sunday morning's, sitting on the deck or backroad through the park! Another triumph from one of Guelph's great players. For

information go to gomorse@sentex.net or contact Borealis Records at www.borealisrecords.com

TRIBUTE TO ESTELLE KLEIN

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Estelle Klein, June 17, 2004. Estelle died after a brief battle with cancer.

To all those who knew her, Estelle was a true force of nature – a very special person with an unbridled passion for experience and embracing all that life had to offer – music, books, theatre, art and architecture, food, travel, crafts to name just some of Estelle's many interests.

Estelle changed the world of folk music in Canada. As Artistic Director of the Mariposa Folk Festival her innovative approach to programming and organizational ability set a standard that influenced and shaped every major folk festival in Canada. Estelle also brought her unique multidisciplinary approach to programming to her work for the Ontario Science Centre, Harbourfront Centre many other pre-eminent cultural organizations.

Most recently, she was instrumental in helping to form the ArtsCan Circle, a remarkable organization dedicated to bringing music and a sense of hope to children in some of Canada's most remote and distressed Aboriginal communities. She spent her last hours listening to music and reminiscences from many of her closest friends who paid tribute to Estelle at a benefit concert for ArtsCan Circle on May 9th in Toronto.

Her insightful and thoughtful conversations, letters, and e-mails enriched Estelle's friends and family. Her egalitarian approach and deep respect for people of all ages and backgrounds was unwavering. Her strong sense of principle informed everything she did and profoundly influenced those close to her.



The Georgian Bay Folk Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Carolyn Bigley as its new Events Coordinator/Office Administrator. Carolyn has been extensively involved in the folk arts community for over 25 years. During her tenure as Grants Coordinator with the Ontario Arts Council she was responsible for providing folk festivals with fiscal and operational planning, fundraising and marketing initiatives and assessing annual grant requests. She has presented workshops and seminars ranging from Audience Development to Volunteer Management at various events including the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals and the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance annual conferences. Carolyn has also served as President for both these organizations and as Chair of the Owen Sound Celtic Festival, as well as serving as a director of the Georgian Bay Folk Society. Carolyn's comprehensive knowledge and experience in special events planning includes conferences, performances and media launches. Please join us in welcoming Carolyn to her new position.

Georgian Bay Folk Society

**THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE GEORGIAN BAY
FOLK SOCIETY
WILL BE HELD
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 28TH,
2004
AT THE OLD
COURTHOUSE
1235 3RD AVE EAST
OWEN SOUND
AT 7:00 P.M.**

**SUMMERFOLK 2004
TICKET PRICE**

WEEKEND PASSES

*Early Bird Weekend Pass (Available Until July 15)	\$68
*Regular Weekend Pass	\$80
*Senior Weekend Pass	\$70
*Student Weekend Pass (Photo ID req'd at gate)	\$70
*Youth Weekend Pass (Ages 13- 18 years)	\$50
*Children's Pass (5-12 years) (Must be accompanied by An adult)	\$5
* Children 4 and under	Free

DAY PASS

* Friday Ticket	\$25
* Saturday Ticket	\$45
* Sunday Ticket	\$45

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE
HARRY LUMLEY BAYSHORE
COMMUNITY CENTRE –
BOX OFFICE
OR BY PHONING
1-519-371-7452 or
1-866-528-8225**

