

folk forum

September 2006

You take my hand, I'll take your hand, together we may get away. This much madness is too much sorrow, it's impossible to make it today... yeah...she could drag me over the rainbow...and send me away...

Hello Fellow Travelers,

I hope your journey this summer has been kind to you. Mine has been a mix of both ends of the spectrum. I have been finding solace in Neil Young's music a lot this summer, returning to the old stuff where I used to dwell when I was feeling ... well ... "Helpless, helpless, helpless." I am enjoying his new overtly anti-war stuff of late, it takes one back to times when the music became part of the movement to stop a crazy war. Falling in love several times this summer carried me for short periods of time... over the rainbow. Mostly I've been dreaming of building a gypsy wagon or listening to Israel Kamakuiwaole's version of Somewhere Over the Rainbow... "way up high... blue birds fly"...wishing upon stars hoping to wake up where the clouds are far behind and trouble melts like lemon drops. Thank you Joanne for that great CD of a bunch of Hawaiian favorites. It has saved me a thousand times in the past year.

It is easy in the world today to feel beaten down and overwhelmed. Hearing news from Iraq or Lebanon alone is too much to bear. Seeing pictures of the bombed out neighborhoods in Lebanon with banners stretched across destroyed buildings that read "Made in USA," or the constant stream of reports that confirm our predictions the Bush/Israeli plan for a "New Middle East" would turn into a "New Middle Beast" unleashing chaos. The "War on Terror" is a war of terror and has plunged the region into chaos and immense suffering. We are not close to peace and stability. Huge amounts of capital have been squandered and the image of America in the eyes of most of the world has free-fallen to lows that may take generations to repair. We have not begun to address the underlying problem in this global disaster, namely our nation's gluttonous dependence on oil. Pipeline leaks, toxic spills, climate change, increasing natural disasters and a bankrupt national treasury, the home-guard off in Iraq or Afghanistan, a contracting economy that is increasingly being globalized and marginalized...and 'this much madness is too much sorrow.'

In an email from Ruth McKenzie, as we were lining up her April 15 Oak Center debut, she told me her new stuff was about the 'human ecstasy experience with nature'. I pondered that for a moment trying to keep cynicism from creeping in about the nature experience for the many we see having it in luxury motels on wheels or buying 10 acres to build a starter castle. I've seen a lot of romantic notions about life in the country or the idyllic life on the farm. And yet, even after the realities set in...life on a farm is good. Having people buy 10 acres and move to the country is a good thing if they are thinking of the big picture and not trying to "live in the city" from their place in the country. We need good neighbors out here with some ecologically sound intentions. I was anxious to hear about Ruth's ecstatic experience with nature. I knew what she was

talking about and thought how important it is for people to have those experiences and to continually be able to renew them. We are losing much of the generation of people who have memories of growing up on the farm and of all those deeply satisfying "ecstasy" experiences in the midst of the challenges and hard work. It frightens me to think that for many kids today those experiences may be replaced with computer games and Nintendo. My life has been intimately connected with nature. Even while going to school on the north edge of Chicago in Evanston, I sought refuge on the shores of Lake Michigan and in the parks. I didn't live in town as a child and spent most of my time in the woods or roaming fields, hills and barnyards near the Blue Earth River. I frequently admit that words were not my first language and humans not my most frequent companions. My brother and I had a trap line and sold mink, muskrat and coon furs for spending money. We hunted, raced thru hills and woods on horseback, and pretty much spent all of our time outdoors. I hated like hell having to stay inside to practice the piano or the French horn. I went to school in Chicago in '68 and though it was an exciting life changing experience to be involved in anti-war, earth-day, liberation movements that were rising up and raging...the human condition seemed to be chaotic and lost without a connection to planet earth and the "ecstatic experience with nature". It may seem a bit deranged to relate the ecstatic experience of nature with ripping the beautiful soft furs off of little critters to clothe the naked humans for winter. I always felt inner struggle and empathy for the creatures and asked silent prayers for forgiveness from them, trying to make their journey as quick and merciful as possible. I feel the same empathy for each creature that falls to the predator, and yet have come to see the beauty in the design, the hawk, the cat, the dragonflies, swallows, the wolves...and their prey. We have choices and sometimes I have intervened and rescued...and sometimes aided the predator. Somehow it was always easier to understand those relationships in nature than the predatory relationships that happen in the human world with the senseless, soul-less, greedy quests for power and excess or dominance of ideology. I know some of that ecstatic experience with nature. It is like love for me. Once having experienced it, you can't live without it. When it turns and the struggle for soul and survival comes upon you...you can feel helpless, angry. Somehow it is easier to forgive nature than a love that has turned cold or vengeful, and yet living without love can be like living without reason for living. Living without nature...well is that what humanity is trying to do? Have they become hardened to nature and not having experienced that love, that nurture, that ecstasy...is that why they pave it, fill it with artificial lights and colors and synthetic surfaces, while filling their lives with electronic inputs and rolling over it in mechanical beasts belching foul gases and changing the climate?

Gosh, here comes another from Neil Young:

Oh mother Earth, your fields of grain
Once more laid down by the hungry hand.

How long can you give and not receive?
And feed this hungry world, ruled by greed.

Oh ball of five, in the summer sky
You're healing light, the parade of days...
Are they betrayed by the men of power/
Who hold this world, in their changing hands.
They hold this world...

In my heart I'm hearing "THEY'RE CHANGING HANDS". Let's hope certain ones of them are changing jobs. Elections are coming. Don't forget to vote peace, justice and environment. Try to make sure your vote is counted correctly. (Vote Mark Ritchie secretary of state!). Then begin voting every day with your actions. Friends, that's Democracy! It is an everyday event.

Our civilizations are camped around a shrinking pool of oil (most of which should be saved underground to buoy up and insulate the outer-shell of our good Earth from the molten core), with cold-blooded sharp toothed reptiles pacing the perimeter trying to stake their claim on it. Wherein lies our hope? We can pray for and hope for favorable elections... and the impeachment and trial of the guys and gals in Washington who hi-jacked our country. Dare to set your dreams high!!! But most importantly, we must focus our attention on uniting with others in the healing process, to rise up together all around Earth and heal this world. God, the Creator, Allah, Wakan, the Universe... will give us what we need. Draw from your source of power and turn it into love-light. If we look and listen it is already happening. There is a steady murmur coming from people everywhere. "Enough! Enough! This past week saw numerous events reclaiming 9/11 with vigils and peace walks to celebrate a more constructive anniversary on that day, the 100th anniversary of the beginning of Gandhi's non-violent resistance movement. September 11th, 1906 Gandhi and early followers met evil with patient but steadfast refusal to cooperate. We must not let those with evil or greed in their hearts set the agendas for our lives. We must not let fear rule us.

Sherry Leveille sent me a story of a Cherokee elder... I think Frank Foltz sent it to her.

A Cherokee elder told his grandson, "son, there are two wolves fighting within me. One is evil. It is anger, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought for a moment, then asked, "grandfather, which one will win?"

His grandfather replied, "the one I feed."

Love will overcome evil. Jesus was a prophet of love. Out of that love he healed the sick, fed the hungry, threw the money changers out of the temple and stood between the stone throwers and the condemned woman. Gandhi's satyagraha, resistance to evil, and the home spun movement tells us that "we must become the change we wish to see in the world." Friend Furry Foote said in

1992, we need to stop being afraid and live the answers." Don't forget to plant your truffula seeds. See you in the big room...

Love and Peace,

Maintenance and Repair.



An Appeal

Folk Forum can use your help. Folk Forum has touched many lives over the years. The magic that has been happening at Oak Center has created many fond memories for all ages, inspired many friendships, and helped many find direction in a complex and often chaotic world. It would not have been possible without the contributions of time and money by many dedicated volunteers and supporters. We have a full schedule planned with some exciting performers and presenters coming. I am counting on you, the Folk Forum community, to once again help make this a great season. There is a lot that needs to get done and money needed for projects. Please do what you can do to help us make a great thing better. Donations may be made out to Folk Forum. Offers of time and skills are needed now! and throughout the fall and winter. There are many repairs to do and help needed with cleaning, fixing, building, setting up chairs, making posters and hanging them. There is something for everyone. Please list your skills and what times you are available in the volunteer section on the insert in this newsletter.

**** If you have any legal or grant writing skills and can help us become a Community Trust and part of the Historic Register— we still need your help!**

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has helped out or contributed in the past. May your lives be blessed for the gifts you have given to the community by making the Folk Forum what it is.

Sister Events

- ◆ Friends for a Non-Violent World is dedicated to bringing peaceful non-violent conflict resolution to bear on many of our most critical national and international issues. They are doing great work and need your support. Thanks for all you're doing up there folks and special thanks to you Phil Steger. For more info call (651) 917-0383. info@fnvw.org
- ◆ The SE Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (www.semnap.org) is still meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month and has continued supporting and sponsoring events since its formation 6 years ago. They would like to call attention to the following events:

Sept/Oct, The Triangle Factory Fire Project at the Rep Theater, 8PM on Sept 15, 16, 21-23, 28-30 and Oct 5-7. For tickets call 289-1737 or email BoxOffice@RochesterRep.org.

Oct 8th, 4PM, Gathering the Family of Abraham – An Interfaith walk from the Mosque to B'nai Israel Synagogue, Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church to Lourdes High School: Pot Luck @ Lourdes High School at 6:15 PM.

Oct, Eyes Wide Open. This display is in honor of the victims of the Iraq war and it presents the costs in lives and resources. This Display is promoted by the American Friends Service Committee. The exhibit can be viewed on Oct. 10, 11, and 12, in the courtyard at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Rochester.

Dec 1-3, Non-Violence Training, see www.semnap.org for more info.

- ◆ Thanks MPR for all the great programming you do. Special thanks to Mike Pengra, Dale and Jim Ed on the morning show, and Jeryl and Chris at KLSE for helping us get the word out about all the great music that happens here and elsewhere around the state. Thanks to Ellen Stanley of KFAI and the Womenfolk Show on Sunday afternoon for her constant support. Thanks to Blue Monday, Inside Bluegrass and all the other great publications who report on music events and keep the music scene alive and well. Many thanks to Tom Weber at the Roch.Post Bulletin for excellent coverage of events. Thanks Ruth, thanks Rich for helping get the word out to your communities. And thanks to all you poster hangers!
- ◆ Build the local economy and support your farm neighbors. Order a ¼ or 1/2 of organic lamb, goat, pasture raised beef, buffalo, or pork, or get individual cuts here at the store. Help build homeland security by rebuilding a strong local economy. No hormones or antibiotics. Available regularly at the Oak Center General Store. (507) 753-2080
- ◆ Hey poets! We are still looking for people to share and discuss each other's poetry. There will be a sign up contact sheet at all the concerts or you can contact Norm at 507-529-0048 or via e-mail at stormn11@charter.net.
- ◆ The Oak Center Store needs your support to continue operating. I hope you find some useful and beautiful items among our seemingly random collection of organic food and other cool and interesting stuff, much of which is

downright useful.. Save some of your purchasing needs for concert days and encourage us to keep doing this! Thanks!

- ◆ Red Wing Vets for Peace and the Red Wing Alliance for Peace are doing great work. Their 4th annual Veteran's for Peace Retreat was this past week-end, Sat. Sept. 23. For more info contact David Harris, VFP Ch 115, (651) 388-5863, tuvecino@redwing.net, or Hank Brummer, (651) 385-8208, ekstrand@redwing.net.
- ◆ The Northland Bioneers conference sponsored by the Northland Sustainable Solutions will be held from **Friday Oct. 20 to Sunday Oct. 22** at the Minneapolis Community Technical College at 1501 Hennepin Ave. **For more info contact:** Sarah Bell Haberman, sarah@modernstorytellers.com, (612) 338-3900, or Vonda Vaden, vcreative@visi.com, (612) 247-1448.
- ◆ Conference on Non-Violent Resistance at St. Thomas University, sponsored by the War Resisters' League followed by organized non-violent civil disobedience action at Alliant Tech in Edina. Alliant Tech manufactures depleted uranium weapons used by US forces thru-out the world **FRIDAY SEPT. 29, 7PM**, the film "Iraq for Sale" followed by a panel discussion at O'Shaunessy Auditorium. **SAT. SEPT 30**, a day long conference followed by a re-union at 7PM in Murray Herrick Hall for those who have participated in or supported actions in past years. **SUNDAY OCT. 1**, the conference continues with a 3 hr.rally at 7PM that includes; Winona LaDuke, Vernon Bellecourt, Jack Nelson-Palmeyer, Marv Davidov, Utah Philips, Paul Krastner, The Frivolous Mishkins, and more. **MONDAY OCT 2, 7:00 AM** on Ghandi's 137th birthday, there will be a non-violent civil disobedience action at Alliant Tech. for more info see www.warresisters.org.

◆ **Volunteers for folk forum**—we can't do all these fine programs without the generous help from the community that is *folk forum*. Volunteers who lend a hand are truly the lifeblood of folk forum and keep things going....smoothly. We invite you to plug in prior to, during, or following programs and concerts with a variety of tasks or during the week helping with maintenance and repair, or cutting and stacking firewood. Be adventurous, meet interesting people with values and ideals similar to your own, hear inspiring music, and have fun, because we are....the change we want to see in this world. Contact us if you are able to help. (507)753-2080 or folkforum@lakes.com Thanks!

***Mailing List:** If you would like to be on it, please make a small donation of ~\$5/yr or more and fill out the form on the insert in this newsletter. If you have donated and should be on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

Some great new music and lot's of our old favorites coming up...feast on this menu!

Carolyn Cruso

Sat. Oct. 7th, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Hammered dulcimer, singer songwriter, guitar and flute-

Hailing from Washington state, Carolyn is a poetic lyricist and a powerfully expressive singer. She is equally at home on hammered dulcimer, guitar, flute or vocals. Most of her traditional music is Celtic/Irish gleaned from 2 ½ years sojourn in Europe with the late Robert Almlblade whom she performed and wrote with for over a decade. Her lyrics explore love, loss and regeneration, and convey a compelling sense of longing. Her compositions have been described as sounding like they emerge from ancient forests, "a musical tour-de-force, fusing an eclectic mélange of folk, jazz and Celtic elements...a poetic virtuoso". When I put on the CD she sent as a sample...I looked at a friend who was listening with me, the nod and smile told me that you guys wouldn't forgive us if we didn't have her here at Oak Center. It's the first show of the year so get yer folk forum gears in motion, it's going to be a great way to say hello and start off our season...it's been a while since we've had a Hammer Dulcimer in this hall...I'm excited!

Sara Grey and Kieron Means

Sunday, Oct.8, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

banjo, story-telling & traditional ballads of Ireland and Scotland

Sara Grey grew up in New England but has been living in Scotland for the past 32 years. She spent some of her early years in North Carolina where she developed a love for mountain music and banjo. She has had an intense interest in folklore and has collected ballads from each of the regions she lived in. Her story telling, her frailing style on the banjo, and her sweet strong tremolo voice take you to other times and other places, tracing a journey of music from the British Isles to the American frontiers and Appalachia. You will not forget Sara Grey. Kieron Means is her son. He grew up with music and has built credibility as an artist who understands and performs traditional North American songs and ballads with a deeper understanding of where they come from and in the context they sprung from. His guitar and tenor voice complement Sara's voice and banjo. This will be a good show.

Seeking Sustainability: Emulating Life's Genius and Grace

A presentation by Barbara Vaille and Rebecca Cramer

Sunday Oct. 8 at 4:30 following the concert, with pot-luck at 6pm

Barbara Vaille an activist and organizer from Northfield and Rebecca Cramer, a long time peace activist with Northern Sun, will show films from the Bioneers Conference that took place earlier this year out in CA. They will lead a discussion and Q&A following the film. The two selected topics are Janine Benyus' talk "Nature as Mentor, Nature as Ally", and Paul Stamet's talk "Mushroom Magic: Deep Biology and Planetary Healing". This is a great chance to preview the Bioneers conference in the Twin Cities Oct. 20-22. (see Sister Events)

The Chris Silver Band

Saturday, Oct. 14, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Acoustic folk in overdrive: bluegrass, jazz, blues, and folk

Chris' selection of covers is transcendent and his originals travel a huge landscape of experience and place. He has created a new sound with traditional roots music at the core. As a musical risk taker he has added layers not usually found in traditional music, providing a rich texture to his songs, including slide guitar and intricate global rhythms. He is backed up by some great musicians you have seen here in other forms, ie Tangled Roots, Cousin Dad, and others. They are Pete Mathison on bass, Wayne Beezley on mandolin and mandocello, and Lance Richard on banjo and dobro. Chris plays mandolin and guitar and is an excellent vocalist. The combination is dynamite. This show will get your energy flowin' and open up some blocked chakras.

B'net Houariyat

Friday Oct. 20, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Song, dance and stories from Morocco

B'net Houariyat is a group of 5 musician women conducted by Khadija El Ouarzazia, who have traveled to America to bring us music and dance from the North of Africa in the region of Marrakech, Morocco. They all are singers, percussionists and dancers, inspired with roots in sub-Saharan Africa and the berberian oral tradition. All the texts are ancient and evocating various aspects of everyday life: social issues, religion, love, family, neighbors, bad feelings...With humor and energy, B'net Houariyat are also transgressing the clichés of the condition of women in Islamic countries. The dances are from the original tribe the Houara as well as berberian. Their repertoire includes Aita (feminine seduction call) and chaabi (popular style that originated rai). Their dance of a woman possessed by spirits is a classic. Exciting!

Leslie Ball, Dean Magraw, and Anthony Cox

Opened by Rochester Mennonite Fellowship: songs of peace and spirit

Sat. Oct 21, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Jazz vocals, and fabulous guitar

Leslie Ball is a proud native of Duluth, Minnesota and currently resides in Minneapolis where she works as a writer, performer, director and producer. She is founder/curator of "BALLS", a long-running weekly midnight cabaret for experimental work held at the Southern Theater. She has performed solo on major stages across the country including The Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, Intermediary Arts, The Dakota, and Chautauqua. Her first solo recording "Loring Park" received critical raves and earned her the 1995 Minnesota Music Academy Award for Female Songwriter of the year. Leslie has a voice as smooth as Billie Holiday and is backed by musicians extraordinaire Dean Magraw on guitar and Anthony Cox on bass.

Opening this concert, we will be treated to the rich harmonies and favorite songs of the **Rochester Mennonite Fellowship**. It is a treat to hear the pure and practiced voices honed thru generations of singing unaccompanied in the traditions of one of our historic peace churches.

Marv Davidov: Living a Life of Resistance to War
Saturday, Oct. 28, 4:30 PM with a pot-luck at 6pm
freewill donation

Jazz... just kidding, Marv is a pretty jazzy guy and you'll love him
Marv Davidov should be our state radical... (or state jail-bird marv?), but Minnesota has a history of progressive and radical politics and there is a big list. I met Marv way back in the 70's in a discussion group sitting on the grass somewhere in Mpls. With Dave Dellinger from the Conspiracy 8 in Chicago '68. Marv had founded an organization called MIST, (Minn. Inst. For Social Transformation). He has been a lifelong peace activist and intimately connected to the Honeywell Project and many civil disobedience actions in resistance to the manufacture of weapons that represent the worst in the arsenals assembled for the destruction of fellow humans. He is funny, he is sharp, at times irreverent (in good ways) and he has the stories to tell. We will show a hilarious film about Marv's life of activism and then let Marv entertain, inspire and educate. Perhaps he will have tales of the Oct. 2 action at Alliant Tech. A **pot-luck will follow** at 6 pm..Bring a dish to pass and plates, utensils, etc.

Papa John and the Hot Club
Saturday, Oct. 28, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Lendary folk-blues singer, guitar player and entertainer, John Kolstad has been performing for more than 30 years. He has blazed a musical trail across the US performing in coffee houses, bars, festivals and every place in between. He performed regularly with Garrison Keillor on the Prairie Home Companion, was a featured performer at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, and the Winnipeg Folk Festival. He has worked with David Bromberg, Ricky Nelson, Joan Armatrading, Odetta, Utah Phillips, Jim Post, to name a few. Papa John is an accomplished musician, a fine blues singer/songwriter, and a stellar picker on 6 or 12 string guitar. The Hot Club are all virtuoso musicians and hot doesn't describe them. Deano Mikkelson on jazz guitar, Sam Fiske playin' bass and jumpin' up intermittently with a trumpet blowin' some pretty fat sound, and Clint Hoover blowin' on a blues harp. You've heard Clint here with his own band, with the Sugar kings, and with Jumbo Ya Ya. You can come listen...but you're gonna wanna dance.

p.s. Papa John is runnin' for attorney general on the green ticket. He'd make a darn good one. We've had presidential candidates, senators, congressmen, janitors and a few former hall monitors on our stage...why not attorney generals-to-be.

Jack Norton

Friday, Nov. 3, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Folk/bluegrass.

Meet Jack Norton, musical purveyor of vaudeville, bluegrass, gospel and country-comedy. A wisecracking comedian, Jack plays: guitar, ukulele, banjo and a washboard-based musical contraption called a "whiz bang". He sings in a voice reminiscent of Bing Crosby, Al Jolson or Rudy Vallee. Ever the constant showman, Norton peppers his vaudeville-style "country-comedy" routines (think "Hee-Haw" meets Jack Benny or W.C.Fields) with songs

tailored to his audience, encouraging requests and participation. Jack played here last fall with the Mullet River Boys and did a great show. He is a great performer doing bluegrass, gospel, and folk with stories and vaudeville nicely mixed in. There will be something for everyone here. He is a great musician, an excellent story-teller, and prolific writer. He always does a good show. Come on out and give it a listen in the company of friends.

The Whistle Pigs

Saturday, Nov. 4, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Bluegrass and Irish

The foursome known as the Whistle Pigs pride themselves on tight three and four part harmonies and hot instrumentals. They uphold the bluegrass tradition by breaking conventions, playing everything from Flatt and Scruggs to Lennon and McCartney, old Appalachian and Irish tunes, to newly-penned originals. They use the old-style single microphone setup, which not only takes musical talent, it requires death-defying choreography and is a show by itself. Everybody loves these guys!

Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen

Friday, Nov. 10, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Folk Singers/Songwriters extraordinaire

This husband and wife team of singers/songwriters/musicians, Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen, have separate reputations and musical histories, but together they are pure magic. Steve is best known as a songwriter for numerous major artists such as John Denver, Garth Brooks, Linda Ronstad, etc. As a guitarist he has been compared to Doc Watson. Cindy is renowned for her compelling voice and her trio recordings with Priscilla Herdman and Anne Hills, as well as some fine solo albums. She adds guitar, banjo and some awesome concertina to Steve's guitar and fiddle. Steve and Cindy played here some years back and the memories of their meaningful lyrics and fine musicianship left me aching to locate them and get them back to Oak Center. As fine a pair of musicians as we've ever had here. Treat yourself and some friends.

Café Accordion Orchestra

Saturday, Nov. 11, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

French musette, vintage swing, Euro-Latino dance music

Café Accordion Orchestra performs music that was heard in Parisian cafes and dance halls in the 1920s and other music that will make you want to shove the chairs up against the walls, don a beret, and grab somebody to fling across the hardwood. Fueled by Dan Newton's accordion and encyclopedic musical knowledge, stoked by Brian Barnes on guitar, Eric Mohring on mandolin, Erik Lillestol on the upright bass, and Joe Stenger on drums, this band is as hot as it will get around here in the month of November. Fend off the cold for another night, warm up your soul...maybe bring some dancin' shoes...

Pete Morton with opening by Carl Franzen

Friday Nov. 17, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Original folk with great messages

Folk singer Pete Morton is a songwriter and performer from Nottingham, England with a wealth of great songs and stage presence. His show is dynamic and intense as well as approachable and fun-loving. Starting out as a busker on the streets of Europe, he has entertained all over the globe with his unique and involving style of songwriting and traditional singing.

The Guardian tells us that Pete is not only impressive but a revelation totally original. He has released five CDs of original material and one project of traditional tunes, and we eagerly look forward to hearing samples from all of them.

Carl Franzen plays piano and performs some great originals..

Chuck Suchy

Saturday, Nov.18, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

A feeling person's singer/songwriter/storyteller- farm direct!

Another year has passed and again we host our favorite farmer/folksinger Chuck Suchy back to our stage.

Chuck pours out articulate expressions of rural and deeper human values through song, fancy guitar licks, occasional accordion tunes, and great stories. The fact that Chuck operates a 1000-acre beef and grain farm in North Dakota gives his engaging performance of original songs and stories of the land, family, and community a stamp of authenticity. His ability to inspire a sense of the significance of rural life transcends any borders between city and country folks and gives it a sense of holiness. Chuck speaks to all of us about the things that really matter in life. Being in the room with Chuck makes me feel like I'm sitting with him in his kitchen listening to him make music at the end of a day.

The Bourbon Brothers with Jacob McKnite opening

Saturday, Nov.25 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Blues like you like it!

When Jeff gave me a Bourbon Brothers CD and said you should have these guys play oak center...he was right. With sax, guitar, bass and drums, they boogie thru a wide range of new and old blues, jazz, New Orleans funk and reggae. They're going to make you want to dance...or sit back and drink in some fine blues. These guys are all veteran musicians and know their stuff. Somebody in this group has a healthy sense of humor too. It was one of the most fun bio's I read...and the sax adds a dimension that puts this band on the path to enlightenment. Devin Freedlund on sax, Folko Landvogt on guitar and vocals, Dave Armstrong on base and vocals, and Dave Orr on drums and vocals. **Jacob McKnite** will open for the show with some original compositions.

Charlie Parr

Saturday, Dec.2, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able: kids freewill donation

Authentic Blues

The word authentic gets used like some other words...way too much. When you hear Charlie you'll understand the meaning of the word. Charlie shows up with a lived-in rasp of a voice, a National

Resonator guitar, a 12 string acoustic, a banjo, a batch of his own songs, and well traveled numbers by Mississippi John Hurt, Charlie Patton, and other bluesmen from another time. He executes his music the way it should be with his self-taught mix of slide, finger pickin' and quasi-frailling techniques, and a voice that says this is the blues. Charlie hails from Duluth, the harbor on that big cold, rocky-shored, fresh water ocean that opens the door to the iron range. There is something clear and solid about this guy. You just gotta hear it.

Dean Magraw and John Williams

Sunday, Dec.3, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Celtic/Eclectic/Stratospheric

Dean and John performed one of the most memorable shows ever performed here. Mix one of the all-time best guitar players on the planet with the best Irish musician in North America, and then have them love to play together, put them in a place they love to play in...they will carry you waaaaay over the rainbow to some place in outer space you never heard of. Some Irish place. Waaay up there. Dean on guitar, John with his virtuoso accordion and button accordion, occasionally pulling out his penny whistle, always smiling, it's a good thing the music is so good. It helps cure those gut-splitting bouts of laughter that happen when these guys cut loose with the jokes. This show will sell out. Don't be late getting tickets...

Phil Heywood and Dakota Dave Hull...and some poetry!

Friday, Dec.8, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Phil Heywood is a master of the acoustic guitar. He toured with Leo Kottke, was a National Fingerpicking Champion and won the American Fingerstyle Guitar Competition back in '87. He appeared on 'A Prairie Home Companion' with guitar legend Chet Atkins. "there are few who are able to infuse contemporary fingerstyle guitar with the sophisticated yet straightforward and no-frills sensibility and technique of the acoustic blues masters in the way that Phil Heywood does." (GUITARIST magazine). Dakota Dave's guitar style spans a wide musical geography to create a uniquely personal blend of jazz, ragtime, folk, blues Western swing, and vintage. A gifted composer, a strikingly original interpreter of older tunes, Dave Van Ronk called Dave Hull one of the best guitarists in the world. Most of all Dave's music is a lot of fun.

There will be readings of selected poems interspersed thru the evening read by some poets and poetry lovers among us. Going to be a fine way to spend this Friday eve... 2 great musicians and poetry for the soul!

Lehto and Wright

Saturday Dec.9, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Acoustic/ electric blend of Irish, English and American traditional

Lehto and Wright have created a sound that is a unique blend of traditional and modern styles and come up with a fresh approach to the world of folk and folk rock. From American spirituals to Irish tune sets, this duo's accomplished twin guitar/mandolin approach has all the intensity and power of a trio. Great songs, virtuoso

musicianship and beautifully blended harmony vocals, Lehto and Wright offer exciting live performances of traditional and contemporary with an eclectic twist. Never a disappointment, these guys are an awesome and dynamic duo.

Boyd Lee and Joe Cruz

Friday, Dec. 15, 8PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able: kids freewill donation.

A tapestry of folk, Latin, pop, jazz rock and bluegrass

Sophistication, tight instrumentals, blazing guitar/mandolin licks and great vocals make this duo well worth seeing. Weaving a gorgeous musical tapestry from a diverse genre of music, the two intuitively complement each other. Boyd's strong, powerful rhythms on guitar and lead vocals combined with Joe's exceptional instrumentals and sweet mellow voice will get your attention. Both of them will at times switch into mandolin during the show. Come check them out, and welcome them to oak center.

Willie Murphy and Rad Lorkovic

Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Blues, Jazz, Folk; Willie and Rad style

This show has been done once before...and it was awesome to see and hear. These two extraordinary piano playing musicians do it at the same time or trade leads. Two different pianos, two different musicians. And then there is Rad and his incredible accordion adding into the mix. It was during their last joint appearance that we recorded that great version of "People Get Ready" sung and played on the baby grand by Willie, for our 1st Oak Center compilation CD. Willie Murphy of Willie and the Bees fame, (they were the back-up band on Bonnie Raitt's 1st album), and Rad Lorkovic, trained in classical piano and moving thru that amazing music scene that came out of Iowa City and surrounding territory over the last 25 years. This night will be memorable...you should probably get tickets early for this one too.

The Buffalo Gals

Sunday Dec.17, 2PM

\$5-\$15 pay what you are able; kids freewill donation

Cowgirl Swing

The Buffalo Gals Solstice/Christmas concert has become one of our best loved, community bonding events. This much fun and love and goodwill is hard to come by. The Buffalo Gals swing, fiddle, and yodel old time dance tunes, moving ballads and love songs and all the while that Buffalo Guy pulls on that upright bass. They engage you and pull you into a thoughtful, playful space that instills a reverence for life and each others company. Cowgirl Swing, boots and hats, there is something magic in this music and this time of year...the solstice, the darkness turning to light...this will be our final show until after the new year begins. Join us and join hands and voice as we put this year to rest. This is an afternoon concert. Bring a dish to share if you would like to pot-luck with us afterward....or a big plate of Christmas cookies to share!

ADMISSION AND TICKET INFORMATION:

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND READ THIS BLURB ON TICKET SALES IN ORDER TO SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TIME ON THE PHONE (AND TO SAVE OUR FEET FROM

GETTIN' WORN OFF THE ENDS OF OUR TIRED LEGS AS WE RUN BACK AND FORTH FROM OUR WORK TO THE TELEPHONE.)

TICKETS ARE \$15REG. DOWN TO \$5 PER TICKET FOR LOW INCOME—PAY WHAT YOU ARE ABLE. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN ECONOMICALLY AFFORD. PLEASE BE FAIR. WE CAN'T ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AT THIS TIME. JUST MAIL A CHECK IN OR STOP BY. THROUGH THE MAIL: SEND A CHECK PAYABLE TO folk forum WITH A NOTE STATING THE CONCERT(S) YOU WISH TO ATTEND, HOW MANY TICKETS, AND HOW MUCH YOU ARE PAYING FOR EACH TICKET. WE WILL THEN WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK. HAVE EVERYONE IN YOUR PARTY CHECK IN UNDER YOUR NAME. WE DON'T SEND OUT TICKETS UNLESS THERE IS SOME SPECIAL NEED.

MANY TIMES OUR CONCERTS ARE SOLD OUT AHEAD OF TIME AND WE HAVE HAD SOME "NO SHOWS" WITH THE RESERVATION PLAN WHICH LEAVES SOME EMPTY SPACES. WE SELL TICKETS IN ADVANCE UP UNTIL IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS TO GET THEM THROUGH THE MAIL. AT THAT POINT, IF THERE ARE TICKETS LEFT, WE WILL TAKE RESERVATIONS. PURCHASING TICKETS IN ADVANCE IS AS EASY AS PIE, AND MOST OF YOU ARE REALLY GREAT ABOUT THIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN AND GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE STORE OR THE ROCH. FARMERS MARKET, WE LOVE TO SEE YOU AND GET A CHANCE TO CHAT.

WHEN YOU GET HERE FOR A CONCERT, PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE FRONT COUNTER IN THE STORE. IT IS GOOD TO ARRIVE A HALF-HOUR EARLY. SOME CONCERTS WILL BE SOLD OUT SO IF IT IS DOWN TO THE WIRE ON SOME OF THE REALLY HOT SHOWS, THEN IT MAY BE GOOD TO CALL FIRST AND LET US KNOW YOU ARE SENDING FOR TICKETS.

REGARDING CHILDREN AT SHOWS THAT ARE SOLD OUT: FREE WILL DONATION APPLIES TO KIDS WHO SIT ON THE RUGS UP FRONT OR WHO ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO SIT ON YOUR LAP. WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS (150) WE MUST RESERVE SEATS FOR THE FULL ADMISSION PRICE IN ORDER TO PAY PERFORMERS AND COVER COSTS. *Questions? email them to folkforum@lakes.com. Thanks!*

WE ARE UPDATING OUR MAILING LIST SO..... IF YOU HAVEN'T DONATED \$5.00 FOR MAILING COSTS IN THE LAST YEAR, PLEASE DO SO AS PRINTING COSTS AND POSTAGE HAVE GONE UP AND EAT UP A HUGE AMOUNT OF OUR RESOURCES— If you have filled out one of these and made a donation for mailing cost, but somehow didn't make the list please notify us. We can put you on. Sorry for any confusion. Want your newsletter emailed to you? Email us at folkforum@lakes.com and we'll put you on the list—we still would appreciate the \$5.00 per year even for emailed newsletters. Thank you!!!!

folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF 2006

October

- 7th, Sat., 8PM Carolyn Cruso
- 8th, Sun., 2PM Sara Grey
- 8th, Sun., 4:30 PM B. Vaille and R. Cramer, sustainability solutions
- 4th, Sat., 8PM the Chris Siver Band
- 20th, Fri., 8PM B'net Houariyat
- 21st, Sat. 8PM Leslie Ball and Dean Magraw
- 28th, Sat., 4:30 PM Marv Davidov; a Life of Resistance
- 28th, Sat., 8PM Papa John Kolstad and Hot Club

November

- 3rd, Fri., 8PM Jack Norton
- 4th, Sat., 8PM the Whistlepigs
- 10th, Fri., 8PM Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen
- 11th, Sat., 8PM Café Accordion
- 17th, Fri., 8PM Pete Morton, Carl Franzen open
- 18th, Sat., 8PM Chuck Suchy
- 25th, Sat., 8PM the Bourbon Brothers, Jake McKnite open

December

- 2nd, Sat., 8PM Charlie Parr
- 3rd, Sun., 2PM Dean Magraw and John Williams
- 8th, Fri., Phil Heywood and Dakota Dave Hull +POETRY
- 9th, Sat., Lehto and Wright
- 15th, Fri. Boyd Lee and Joe Cruz
- 16th, Sat., Willie Murphy and Rad Lorkovic
- 17th, Sun., the Buffalo Gals

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store
Route 1, Box 52BB
Lake City, MN 55041



Partial list of the 2nd half; winter/ spring

January 2007

- 7th, Sun., 2 PM Bob Franke
- 20th, Sat. Dave Moore and Rad Lorkovich
- 27th, Sat., Joe and Vicki Price

February

- 2nd, Fri., 8 PM the Miles Johnston Quartet
- 3rd, Sat., 8PM the Jerry Rau Band
- 10th, Sat., 8PM Paul Mayasich and the Benderheads
- 17th, Sat., Monroe Crossing
- 23rd, Fri., Jumbo Ya Ya
- 24th, Sat., Eighthhead

March

- 3rd Mike and Amy Finders Band
- 10th, Sat., Michael Young and Ben Woolman + POETRY
- 16th, Fri., Barra
- 23rd, Fri., Mark Anderson and Speaking in Tongues
- 25th, Sun., Curtis and Loretta
- 31st, Sat., Boiled in Lead

April

- 1st, Sun., Garnet Rogers
- 15th, Sun., Ruth MacKenzie
- 21st, Sat., Switchback

For further information, please call: The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 or email at folkforum@lakes.com www.oakcentergeneralstore.com