

# folk forum

Fall 2012

*There's a lady who's sure ...all that glitters is gold,  
And she's buying a stairway to heaven....*

*And it's whispered that soon, If we ALL call the tune  
Then the Piper will lead us to reason...  
And a new day will dawn, for those who stand long  
And the forests will echo with laughter...*

*...And she's buying a stairway to heaven...*  
(selected lines from J. Page/R Plant- "Stairway to Heaven" )

## **Hello again Friends,**

It seems as if it has been a long time since we gathered last spring for music, good food, and camaraderie. It was such a crazy summer for many of us with the relentless heat and drought, heck, it seemed like half the country was burning and the rest was either plowing under their drought stricken fields or running for their air-conditioning. Record heat, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, droughts, and floods are the rule. What's next? World war?

It would be unbearable for the priests and orchestrates of this evolving global disaster if business as usual got put on hold while we had civil and intelligent discussion on real issues and solutions. Of course, it all comes down to money. Who has it, who doesn't, and how far some will go to amass it. How far will a culture of consuming go to continue its addictions? Nature is out of balance. Our nation has been plundered and is bankrupt, the plunder hidden in the Cayman Islands or elsewhere. The ruse of "nation building"/ "war on terror" has caused a major blow-back and opened the way for angry hostile mobs to rise from the chaos in our nation's wake. We have stirred the hornet's nest, the chickens have come home to roost. America's war-machine has devastated cities, villages, homes and families and killed innocents by the thousands in the witch hunts/assassinations of people our obedient press calls "insurgents".

As our bi-annual election circus gets into full gear, distracting, polarizing, and dividing people, embroiling them in battles that feed on underlying homophobia, class-ism, and racism, where is the altruism, and the humanitarianism? Where is the LOVE, harmony and balance? Ironically elections have been subverting authentic democracy and become the tools of those with money and power. Born again robber barons have used democratic institutions to issue themselves licenses to buy the political process. The armies, regulators, and judges now do the bidding of the new aristocracy, to make the world safe for their ransacking and plundering. Democracy, after all was an impedance to unfettered capitalism. In the New Order, they are dismantling democracy and crippling government. They want to privatize the military, the police, the highways, and schools...and leave the peasants hungry and wanting. Hopefully they will not leave us defeated and desperate. One of the more shocking and frustrating phenomenon of the present day is how quickly much of the American public has become forgetful and intentionally blind to the devastation caused by the marriage of corporate interests and government. The "government is our enemy" ploy used to dismantle democracy, has not gotten rid of government, but replaced it with worse, a government run for and

by the interests of a few. "W" and Cheney were only the most obvious assassins. There is a long list of accomplices including both democrats and republicans. Real attempts at democracy such as the Occupy movement, protests against the wars and state terrorism via drones, and against Wall Street and Banking excesses have been ignored or minimized by mainstream press and the political establishment. They have failed to capture a large enough following partly because most people today are overwhelmed by their struggles on the home front or inextricably tied into the beast. Which brings us to the question, what is a body to do?

*Mama take this badge off of me, I can't use it anymore.  
It's getting dark, too dark for me to see...  
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door.*

*Mama put my guns in the ground, I can't shoot them anymore.  
That long black cloud is comin' down...  
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door.*  
(from Knockin' on Heaven's Door-B. Dylan)

As the Earth suffers the constant and increasing onslaught from the humans who have lost a sense of balance and apparently the ability to reason...our industrial-techno infatuation coupled with lack of wisdom, foresight, and restraint, leads us down a road to end all. As a life-long dedicated "world saver", I struggle to find hope and inspiration to continue to fight on in the trenches of the battle for Middle Earth. And like Bilbo Baggins in Tolkien's epic fantasy, growing older and weary, I am entertaining thoughts of passing the burden of responsibility to the younger Hobbits and heading out one last time to Rivendale to live with the elves. But the battle for Middle Earth must go on. The Fellowship must continue its struggle against the powers of darkness, those that would destroy and consume the earth, enslaving all manner of beings and beasts to their service.

Life's journey has rewarded each of us with friends, allies, insights, and memories. In the end, these things we acquire thru good and worthy deeds, and thru kindnesses will rise above all the things we acquire thru money or wielding power. Is it God or mammon we serve? Gold and silver or riches in heaven? As the sands run out on our stays here in this life, let us make each moment count. Each act, each seed planted, each harvest shared...be sacred and savored. May our weaknesses and sins be forgiven, our resolve to do better increase, and may our courage in the face of injustice not waver. Let mindfulness and empathy be our tools to engage others, trust replacing armor, service and sharing replacing profiteering and exploitation.

As uncertainty grows over the fate of our planet, it is good we can meet again in the big room...

Love and peace,  
Maintenance and repair

p.s. we can use some help!



### *Earthly Notes.*

#### **Thank you**

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Thanks to the Lynn's for your dedicated support and "in the nick of time" help. I hope we can inspire and support you in your time of need. And to you Mariposa, a.k.a. Kathy, you are an angel of mercy. The folk forum and Oak Center would not be the same without your frequent rescues! Thanks in advance to all who will (hopefully) sign up as regular volunteers to help us keep hosting these events. **WE NEED YOU!** Thanks to Carol Reynolds, Lawrence Schwanke, Ron and Carolyn Drude, Michael Perry, Alan and Judy Hoffman, Stephen, Peter, Cy, Betty and everyone else who sent in donations of any amount to cover mailings and other costs...and to those who **WILL** be sending in donations. We know from all the thank you-s we receive from our patrons and visitors to the community that your support for this magical shared journey is appreciated.

**Volunteers for folk forum**—it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without the generous help from you. **We can use more volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Plainview and other surrounding communities. Thanks to Claire and Jim in Wabasha, and Frank and Betty in Rochester for all your help in hanging posters. And we always need regular volunteers to help clean up before and after shows, make food, and someone with computer skills to help update/maintain the mailing list.** If you can help, please let us know when you are available. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in or dropped off. (507)753-2080, e-mail: [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org). 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 recently and didn't get on it, please let us know. Our apologies!!

**Concerts: \$5-\$15 pay what you're able; kids freewill donation**

## **THE MENU**

### **CAROLYN CRUSO**

**Saturday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### ***Hammered dulcimer, vocals, flute, guitar and whistle***

Hammered dulcimer master, Carolyn Cruso, hails from the misty shores of a small island in the Pacific Northwest. The somewhat rare and unusual hammered dulcimer has its origins in the two thousand year old Persian Santour. Cruso's been playing for almost three decades during which time she's cultivated a style all her own which fans and critics alike call adventurous, innovative and lyrical. She's a potent singer/songwriter with lyrics that tell tales of travelling minstrels, seekers, divine misfits, glorious places, forgotten corners, the remaining pockets of beauty left in the wake of man's progress. Wielding two guitars, a flute, a hammered dulcimer and her voice Cruso roams the back roads of the country and of the mind taking the listener on a journey of beauty, love, redemption, compassion and humor.

### **THE BARLEY JACKS**

**Saturday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### ***Acoustic Alchemy and Fiddle Wizardry***

The Barley Jacks sing original vocals and play jaw-dropping instrumentals in a spirit of excitement and fun. They are masters of the fiddle, guitar, bass and drum who meld their divergent backgrounds of blues and bluegrass, classical and Celtic, R & B and bebop to inspire each other and create something entirely new. Frontman and fiddler Brian Wicklund is joined by Joe Cruz—guitar, Kevin Rowe—bass, and Joel Arpin—percussion. These Minnesota-based veterans of years in the musical trenches enjoy making music together so much that they sometimes giggle like little kids completely lost in a moment of play. Virtuosity, magic and a little danger combine to make every performance unique

### **THE CHRIS SILVER BAND**

**Saturday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

#### ***Bluegrass with global rhythms and contemporary themes***

Chris Silver plays roots music, but it doesn't stop there. Chris' music 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 has pulled together some very fine musicians and was one of our best shows last year. Erin Govrik, new to the band, has been performing folk and bluegrass music to audiences across America and Mexico for two decades. Her vocal style can be described as sweet, raw, and full of energy, (1 part Lucinda Williams, 1 part Bonnie Rait, and 1 part Bill Monroe). The band: Pete Mathison, bass; Wayne Beezley, mandolin; Lance Richard, banjo; and Jeff Rogers, percussion. One thing is for sure, their energy is infectious and they'll leave you wanting more.

### **RUTH MOODY AND BAND**

**Sunday, Oct. 21st, 3PM**

#### ***Canadian Roots Music***

**Ruth Moody** is a Juno Award winning songwriter from Winnipeg, Manitoba best known for her work with The Wailin' Jennys, Ruth is an artist of exceptional depth and grace in her own right. She brings to her solo set all the qualities people love about her performances with the Wailin' Jennys – a beautiful clear soprano voice, songs of grace and beauty, and multi-instrumental ability. Backed by guitar, fiddle and bass, Ruth adds banjo and keyboard to her original songs ranging from old-time country to contemporary folk. We're thrilled to finally have her at Oak Center!

**THE PISTOL WHIPPIN' PARTY PENGUINS****Saturday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Midwest-stylized, blues/country/rock/bluegrass**

Straight from the great Mill City comes the Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins. Don't let the name fool you! This is not a violent group of flightless aquatic birds looking for a party, but rather 5 self-proclaimed gentlemen, 2 guitars, a mandolin, a bucket of fiddles, an upright bass, a banjo, and a 4 part vocal harmony that will make Mitt Romney wanna pay taxes. As they prepare to record their 3<sup>rd</sup> album this winter, this quintet from Minneapolis strives to maintain the original spirit of the "string band" while continuing to play new original music and traditionals..The combination of folk, rock, blues, bluegrass, and the occasional stage banter will create an experience that anyone can enjoy!

**FOUR SCHILLINGS SHORT****Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8PM****Celtic, Folk and World Music**

With over a decade of touring in the US and Ireland under their belts the husband and wife duo of Aodh Og O'Tuama from Cork, Ireland and Californian Christy Martin live as full time minstrels in their Dodge Caravan loaded with an ever increasing array of musical instruments including hammered dulcimer, mandolins, Renaissance woodwinds, North Indian Sitar, recorders, tinwhistles, banjo, guitar, percussion and even a bowed psaltry. In a single night, Four Shillings Short perform Traditional Irish and Scottish songs, tunes and airs, Indian Ragas, Folk Ballads, Old-Time songs, Medieval and Renaissance instrumentals and a cappella numbers as well as contemporary folk and original compositions. Their sound has been described as "wondrously diverse", "truly refreshing" and "alternative neo-Celtic folk of the first order".

**CHUCK SUCHY****Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Folk music originals and storytelling**

Again we host our favorite farmer/folksinger Chuck Suchy. His music pours out articulate expressions of rural and deeper human values through song, fancy guitar licks, occasional accordion tunes, and great stories. 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. This is always a great show.

**ANDRA SUCHY****Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 3PM****country, rock, folk and blues**

Raised on a beef and wheat farm in North Dakota by folk musicians, Andra Suchy began touring and performing at festivals at a young age. Classically trained and a veteran of musical theater, the guitar-playing singer moved to Minneapolis in 1996, where she has gone on to make a name for herself as one of the finest vocalists around. A regular performer on the national radio show A Prairie Home Companion, Andra has performed around the world, singing with such artists as Brad Paisley, Mindy Smith, Emmylou Harris, Chris Thile and soprano Renee Fleming. Although mainly known as a vocalist, Andra has been quietly honing her songwriting craft, self-releasing a solo album in 2006 called Patchwork Story. Just signed to Grammy-winning label Red House Records, she releases her new album Little Heart in March, 2012. Full of infectious originals, the album is a twang-tinged mix of country, rock, folk and blues.

**TANGLED ROOTS****Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Bluegrass quartet**

Tangled Roots is one of the most energetic and entertaining bands to hit the bustling Minnesota Bluegrass music scene. They've been performing for over half a decade throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin. With a broad spectrum of material ranging from songs and tunes by Bill Monroe and Elvis Presley to more recent songs penned by Bruce Hornsby, John Prine, Kevin Welch and Bruce Cockburn, Tangled Roots has become a favorite with bluegrass music fans. The members of Tangled Roots consist of some of the best known bluegrass performers in the upper Midwest and combined, they bring to the stage over 100 years of musical experience.

**CHAD ELLIOT****Sunday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 3PM****Roots, blues and folk music**

Averaging over 100 shows per year, Chad Elliott has been on the road for more than a decade performing a blend of roots, blues and folk music. He has played across the country and has been lauded as a modern-day troubadour. Writing songs that are part of his own identity, but full of relatable feeling, Elliott crafts music that can bring a crowd to tears or get them on their feet dancing. This Iowa songwriter's music tells stories about life as he has experienced it through living with the homeless, love, divorce, fatherhood and discovering inspiration in the modern world.

**PADDY KEENAN****Saturday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 8PM****Irish Music**

In the mid-1970s *The Bothy Band* forever changed the face of Irish traditional music. One of the band's founding members, and one of its driving forces, was *uilleann* piper **Paddy Keenan**. The virtuosity and ferocity of his playing led to his being described as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes", and his style has continued to mature in the intervening years as he has pursued a solo career. Whether on reels, jigs and hornpipes, or on haunting slow airs, he brings the unique style of the Travelling pipers to his interpretation of these tunes. Paddy returns to the Oak Center General Store ably assisted by singer and guitarist **Eugene Durkee**, himself a fixture on the Irish music scene in New Hampshire for many years. "*In a live situation, uilleann piper Paddy Keenan is probably the most exciting traditional musician in the world.*" — *Ken Ricketts and Marya Parker*

**CHARLIE PARR****Saturday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8PM****Authentic Northshore Blues**

Authentic gets used way too much, but when you hear Charlie you'll understand its meaning. Charlie shows up with his lived-in rasp of a voice, a National Resonator guitar, a twelve string acoustic, a banjo, a batch of his own songs, and well traveled numbers by revered bluesmen from other times. He executes his music the way it should be with a self-taught mix of slide, finger-picking, quasi-frailing techniques, and a voice that says, "this is the blues". Charlie Parr is the real deal. We're not pulling your leg. But don't take our word for it... listen to his music. You'll be glad you did.

**MONROE CROSSING'S CHRISTMAS MATINEE****Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3PM****Bluegrass**

Celebrating their 12th year, Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel, and heartfelt originals. Their airtight harmonies, razor sharp arrangements, and on-stage rapport make them audiences' favorites across the continent. Get tickets early...

**MIKE MANGIONE & THE UNION with opener Field Report**  
**Saturday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

**Folk-rock & orchestrated string section with soulful vocals**

Mike Mangione & The Union combines a folk-rock sound with an orchestrated string section, soulful vocals and literate sensibility. The band's debut album, *Tenebrae*, received favorable press from all corners of the country, including the honor of being an All Music Guide Album Pick, while *Blurt* refers to their "tearstained folk, Memphis-styled gospel and bluesy-flavored pop" as "luminous." In 2011 they released the album *Offering*. The album and band were nominated for "best of the year" by Radio Milwaukee.

**ERIK KOSKINEN & FRIENDS**

**Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

**Blues/folk/country/fusion**

Best known as an ace guitarist and Producer/Engineer (Trampled By Turtles), Erik Koskinen should also be recognized as a masterful songwriter and rousing country singer. His dulcet tone and demeanor rival artists like Sting and Bon Jovi. Erik will return with *The Minnesota Queen of Americana*, Molly Maher. Backed by Paul Bergen, Frankie Lee, and JT Bates their original brand of American music is an Oak Center favorite.

**THE DOLLYS**

**Friday, Dec. 21st, 8PM**

**Traditional country**

The Dollys features three of Minneapolis' most sought after female vocalists: Joanna Jahn, Kari Shaw and Megan Shaw. Harmonizing to the music of The Trio: EmmyLou Harris, Dolly Parton and Linda Rondstadt and many other female country artists of the 70's, 80's and 90's. The Dollys also perform folk and Americana hits of the past, which they love to put their own spin on. Together these ladies bring their collective talents to the stage and the results are harmonies so tight you'll swear you're live at the

Grand 'Ol Opry! Their unique, heart-stopping sound is both familiar and eye opening. Sure, the matriarch's of America's music wrote the songs, but The Dollys remake these masterpieces into a celebration.

**For further information, please call The Oak Center General Store, (507) 753-2080 or email [folkforum@riverland.org](mailto:folkforum@riverland.org).**

Thank you for your friendship and participation. New ideas are welcome; please contact us with your thoughts.

[www.oakcentergeneralstore.com](http://www.oakcentergeneralstore.com)

**folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall 2012**

**October**

- 6th, Sat. 8PM Carolyn Cruso
- 13th, Sat. 8PM The Barley Jacks
- 20th, Sat. 8PM The Chris Silver Band
- 21st, Sun. 3PM Ruth Moody and Band
- 27th, Sat 8PM The Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins

**November**

- 3rd, Sat. 8PM Four Schillings Short
- 10th, Sat. 8PM Chuck Suchy
- 11th, Sun. 3PM Andra Suchy
- 17th, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots
- 18th, Sun. 3PM Chad Elliot
- 24th, Sat. 8PM Paddy Keenan

**December**

- 1st, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr
- 2nd, Sun. 3PM Monroe Crossing's Christmas Matinee
- 8th, Sat. 8PM Mike Mangione & the Union, opener Field Report
- 15th, Sat. 8PM Erik Koskinen and Friends
- 21st, Sat. 8PM The Dollys

**folk forum**

c/o Oak Center General Store

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