

folk forum

Winter/ Spring 2013

We can't defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home.

Edward R. Murrow

Hello friends,

It's 2013 and the days since the solstice are slowly getting longer. The world didn't end in 2012 as some predicted though in reality it appears we may be getting closer to making our world unlivable. With the winter sun low in the sky, the light comes thru the south windows and shines far back into the Oak Center General Store where it hits the Christmas cactuses. They have been pretty much ignored for the rest of the year but now are covered with amazingly vibrant pink flowers. I love this time of year. The capitalist/consumer frenzy of commercialized Christmas is pretty much over and the serene quiet of a Minnesota winter gives me time to think, to reflect. Of course there are lots of winter tasks to do that immediately make the greatest sense. Number 1 is getting firewood cut, putting it inside or under the shelter of a tarp, and keeping the fires burning. I hope someday I get an Olympic medal for keeping this place warm for the past 36 years.

There is a light snow falling softly outside covering the grime of this industrial culture. I am compelled frequently as of late to shut off the steady babble of bad news and propaganda on the radio and let peace win. The first task here on a winter morning is to light a fire in the kitchen cook-stove. Farm fresh eggs with firm orange-yellow yolks and the whitest white against the blackest black of a well seasoned cast iron skillet, slices of bread toasting right on the 100 year old cast iron stove-top, kids jostling for a seat on the edge of the wood-box or on a stool as close as they can to the stove, teapots gently hissing... is a welcome slice of pleasant reality in a world gone nuts. I am visited by wishes that this snow would keep falling until it covered all the evil and disharmony in our world even if it had to get so deep it would shut everything down. When we open the portal and look out we are surrounded by hateful Americans with guns killing teachers and all the children around them... wars and drones killing suspected terrorists and all the children around them... Wall Street and corporate plunderers taking all of the cookies out of the cookie jars leaving families and all their children hungry, homeless, jobless, and without a doctor or nurse they can afford when they are sick or injured.

I wonder what people were after when they left the farms and small towns for the glamour of the cities to join the hordes in their rivers of traffic. Was it the physical work? Perhaps like moths to a bug-light they were drawn to the razzle-dazzle of blinking neon or the big impressive architecture. I think those huge cathedrals with their tall steeples are amazing but you don't measure a relationship to God by the height of a steeple. 35 years ago I planted thousands of trees on my little patch of land. The pines have become like steeples reaching into the sky to get kissed by God and to give God praise with their majesty. They look nice in the new snow and calm me with songs of their branches in the wind. God has been pleased and generous and in return for these offerings of love, labor and nurture, gives back fruit, nuts, berries, maple sugar, wood and shelter. Well, the work is whole and satisfying but yes, it can leave

you weary and the years will give your body the character of some ancient tree. But there are certainly more than enough trade-offs to "civilization". We are approaching a boiling point. How did we get here? In the 50's thru the 70's we were told the commies were the enemy. In the '80's we were told the government was the enemy and democracy meant we couldn't make rules for the economy. We let them dismantle all the controls put in place on banks and monopolies in the FIRST depression. Then we were told by the upper crust that "free trade" was more important than fair trade, fair wages or environment. They told us it may hurt a little but it would be good for us. We let them start the I.V. They called it GATT/NAFTA and WTO. Many of the 98% didn't realize they would draw so much blood or that it would be stored in Swiss banks for later use by the 2%. Next they sold us the "War on Terror" to get more control of all the oil to keep this unsustainable immoral global plundering going. For some it has been very profitable generating its own endless supply of terrorists to fight. We can be thankful for freedom though... freedom from real jobs, freedom to go barefoot at airports, and freedom of the government to **WATCH US!!**

We have just been at the brink of a 'FISCAL CLIFF'!!! Who comes up with these terms anyway? It was Wall Streeter's fearful that angry people might rediscover democracy, make them give the plunder back, and put the regulations and taxes back in place to protect against 'ROBBER BARONS'. They hoped to break our resolve WITH ANOTHER KIND OF FEAR, and to a large degree, it may have worked. Personally I don't believe we were at a cliff and needed to be held hostage by it. People should be on level playing ground, not a cliff. Let's move on from squabbles over incremental increases in minimum wage, and establish a maximum wage. We need a ratio between top and bottom wages that reflects some parity for real work, sacrifice, contribution to common good. Those that took too much should be consigned to a livable wage, community service, and cleaning up any damage they caused. **You can't keep taking from the farm without putting something back!!!!** Those that profited from war-making, ostensibly for our "freedom" should be given brooms, hammers, and medical training to repair the damage. Soldiers returning need to be consoled, counseled, and healed. They should be trained in jobs making real peace and prosperity, getting the world 'off the grid', off the oil, off agricultural and industrial poisons, and help build a world where people can work and not be hungry or homeless, can afford health care, and have reasonable expectations that their children will be able to carry on in a world that is not dying.

There is much that is broken and needs to be fixed. In 2013, let us put our shoulders, hearts, and minds to the wheel, lift our voices in songs of hope, peace, and protest against injustice. May we give honor to the Creator by loving Creation, and all its children.

Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair



Earthly Notes.

Thank you

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Again, a huge 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 Kathy, Doug D, Garrett, Elizabeth, Nikki, Ann, Monica and Jerome. Thanks in advance to all who will 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, Tim, 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 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. Call (507)753-2080, e-mail: folkforum@riverland.org. If you would like to make a donation, checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed in or dropped off.

***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!!

THE MENU

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

THE PINES

Saturday, Jan 19th, 8PM

Traditional acoustic/roots music spiced with indie & blues

Rising out of the prairies of the Midwest, The Pines are one of the most distinct and powerful indie-rock/Americana groups to hit the national scene in years. They have gathered a stunning line-up of musical talent, in both their live shows and on record, that has gained them a faithful and growing following. With masterful guitar work, beautiful vocals and the graceful keyboard and vocal additions, their sound captivates and elevates with rare intimacy. There is no better place to see them.

JOE AND VICKI PRICE

Saturday, Jan. 22nd, 8PM

Get-down Blues

Joe and Vicky Price are a husband and wife team coming out of SE Iowa. They do some dynamite blues in the old traditions as well as a good measure of high-powered originals. They have a well earned following who come again & again to see the incredible energy that comes alive on the stage in this quiet like-able guy that Greg Brown at times has called the "Buddha". Vicki's exemplary guitar playing and smooth vocals perfectly compliment Joe's raspy voice and slide guitar. It's a lively show, that's a guarantee. Come feel the music and shake them bones...

RADOSLAV LORKOVIC

Saturday, Feb. 2nd 8PM

Blues, Cajun, Jazz, Zydeco & Folk

Radoslav comes again to do his amazingly diverse and artistically performed collection of originals in all the musical genres of the planet. Great voice, incredible piano, and other worldly accordion, it just gets better every time.

SCOTTIE MILLER BLUES BAND

Saturday, Feb. 9th 8PM

Southern Soul, Slow Blues, Dramatic Ballads, and Greasy Funk

Mr. Miller knocks the keys right out off the piano as he feeds you music for the soul. He has a natural feel for gospel music that is not copied or studied but just oozes out on uplifting songs like "Sweet Babe". Scottie calls Minnesota home and left to study music in Boston in the renowned Berklee College of Music. He has toured the USA with the late Bo Diddley. He is a distinguished performer both in the local scene and nationally, bringing his own brand of funk. He is a world class lyricist with working class sensibilities.

GALACTIC COWBOY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, Feb. 16th, 8PM

Newgrass Art-Rock

The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra (GCO) is a unique and powerful musical ensemble that fuses an eclectic mix of original and traditional bluegrass-edged tunes with jazz and world/fusion elements. Their music is Chick Corea meets The Dixie Dregs meets A Prairie Home Companion. The mix ranges from highly accessible bluegrass tunes to extreme arrangements of East Indian ragas. GCO's instrumentation includes guitar, fiddle, bass and drums. The widely versatile instrumentals are accessible to music-lovers of all ages!

JASPER LEPAK

Friday, Feb. 22nd, 8PM

Country, Folk, Roots Music

"Take this child, Lord, from Tucson, Arizona. Give her the wings to fly through harmony and she won't bother you no more." I think Paul Simon's singing about me. Tucson is the city of my childhood, and Minneapolis is the city where I found my wings, but for the next two years, the city I will call my home is Durban, South Africa. Songwriting is my refuge, and singing is the way I find myself in

the world. In 2002, I chanced upon this road. It was a timid knock, and the dam broke: the words had been waiting for a long time. Since then, I have been spilling out songs and CDs. "Songs for Charlie" was released in 2004, "Billboard in this Faint Little Light" in 2005, "Good Morning! Sunshine" in 2006, "Make a Pretty Thing" in 2008, and "Send Me Home" in 2010. Through my songs, I hope to encourage people to love more of themselves and more of others, to think with their own minds, to feel with their own hearts, and to know that they are not alone.

MARC ANDERSON

Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 8PM

Percussion, spoken word & storytelling

Marc Anderson is an internationally recognized percussionist, composer, record producer and music educator. Perhaps best known for his collaborative work with ECM guitarist and music innovator Steve Tibbetts, Marc's versatility and depth of experience has given him the opportunity to work with many great artists in a wide variety of musical genres including; Max Roach, Robert Fripp, Peter Ostroushko, Altan, Greg Brown, Marty Haugen, Garrison Keillor and Taj Mahal. As a student of many drum traditions Marc has studied in Ghana, Brazil and China. He has received grants and fellowships from the Minnesota State Arts Board, The McKnight Foundation and The Jerome Foundation and was nominated as Minnesota Artist of the Year. He is an adjunct professor in the Anthropology Department at Hamline University and has an active schedule leading a number of drum ensembles and teaching master classes and workshops around the country.

BILL STAINES

Sunday, Feb. 24th, 3PM

Traditional and original folk

With "a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic," Bill Staines' music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease on the prairie people of the Midwest and the adventures of the Yukon. Between original songs, Bill includes traditional folk tunes and more contemporary country ballads. Bill delights in having the audience participate in many numbers and never fails to please.

PAUL MAYASICH and RAMM

Sat. March 2nd, 8PM

Blues, Roots music, Mo-town, R&B

Paul Mayasich brings his sweet blues vocals awesome guitar playing, and his outstanding trio. John Iden is still on bass and Hye Pockets on the trap set. All three of these guys contribute to vocals. They have shared the stage with many greats. Always a great show.

BOILED IN LEAD

Saturday, March 9th, 8PM

Rock'n'reel, Punk folk, Country music

For more than 27 years, BiL have been innovators in bringing "folk music" kicking and screaming to rock audiences (& rock music to screaming folk audiences)! BiL's many instrumental dance tunes incorporate global influences, rhythms and melodies that are guaranteed to keep feet moving. Todd Menton's unique lyrics are both poignant and extremely fun. Original songs stick in your mind long after the show is over.

MONTANA SKIES

Saturday, March 16th, 8PM

Cello, Guitar, Fusion

Their name, Montana Skies, is a metaphor for musical freedom, and they continue to follow their creative instincts far beyond traditional boundaries. In concert, these award winning musicians delve into music from Pink Floyd and Rush to Vivaldi, and House of the Rising Sun, as well as their own originals that have been featured everywhere from NPR to the Travel Channel. Combining elements

of classical technique, jazz improv and the power and energy of rock n' roll; Jonathan's guitar wizardry and Jenn's blazing electric cello combine to create a sound that is truly remarkable. While the music defies simple categorization, it is a fusion in the truest sense of the word. It's been called everything from chamber rock to psychedelic strings. Whatever you want to call it, rest assured, this ain't your grannies chamber music. A Must See at Oak Center!

GREG HERRIGES

Saturday, March. 23rd, 8PM

Whirled Music

Guitarist, bouzoukist, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, & composer Greg Herriges creates an eclectic mix of original and traditional "whirled music," with a unique approach honed by his studies of South and East Asian and other international styles. A virtuoso performer and award-winning composer, his music and writing have found international recognition. Greg Herriges is: a recipient of an Archibald Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship for Music Composition; a three-time Sample Night Live "audience favorite" winner (including 2010's favorite of the year); a soundtrack artist and music director for film and theater; and author of seven (and counting) internationally published music books. Performing is his lifeblood.

DEAN MAGRAW

Saturday April 6th, 8PM

Extra-terrestrial folk- jazz

Celebrate Spring with an intimate solo performance kickin' out the thegeetar jams and laughin' away your blues - Dean Magraw unveils soulful melodic grooves intricately designed to heal the broken dancer, confuse the boldest mathematician, and eradicate ennui in ourlifetime. Love it? Hear It!

STEVE KAUL AND THE BRASS KINGS

Saturday, April 13th, 8PM

Blues and folk with international influences

Blending influences from African, Indian and Middle Eastern traditions - as well as good old Blues & Folk - Steve Kaul and his band, The Brass Kings, bring quick finger picking Acoustic and Resonator guitar playing to new heights with extended sets incorporating washtub bass and washboard. The energy and drive of this homemade band is impossible to ignore. It will again be a very special night.

JENNIFER MARKEY AND THE TENNESSEE SNOWPANTS

Saturday, April 20th, 8PM

Country/ American/ Country Rock

Jennifer has been singing all her life, but when the hardship of a failed marriage drove her to the Hexagon Bar every week for the Country Jam, she really found her niche. Learning a hundred classic country covers by Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline and Hank Williams, among others, Jennifer learned guitar and started sitting in with The Dieselfitters, becoming comfortable on stage and eventually joining the band. When Markey set out on her own in 2006, she brought on bassist Eric Paulson (of The Twin City Playboys); Clay Williams joined as lead guitar in 2009; Matt Steele wraps up on drums.

SWITCHBACK

Saturday, April 27th 8PM

American Roots, Celtic Soul

For over two decades, the musical partnership of Brian Fitzgerald and Martin McCormack, known as Switchback, has been entertaining audiences around the world with their unique American Roots music blended with Celtic Soul. Wherever they play, no matter the size or age of audience, Switchback always captivates and charms folks with their energy and creativity

DANNY SCHMIDT & CARRIE ELKIN

Sunday, April 28th, 3PM

Folk, Americana

No foolin', Danny & Carrie's joint shows are a revelation. Danny Schmidt is the real deal, an authentic timeless troubadour-poet in the tradition of Townes Van Zandt, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, & Dave Carter, who delivers his craft with a quiet power, level of complexity, and underlying humanity that is truly rare. With the vocal fire of Patti Griffin and lyrical rawness of Rickie Lee Jones, Carrie Elkin's songs are intimate yet universal, naked yet richly adorned. Together on stage the chemistry is spectacular.

folk forum

CALENDAR IN BRIEF Winter/ Spring 2013

January

- 19th, Sat. 8PM The Pines
- 26th, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicky Price

February

- 2nd, Sat. 8PM Radoslav Lorkovic
- 9th, Sat. 8PM Scottie Miller
- 16th, Sat. 8PM Galactic Cowboy Orchestra
- 22nd, Fri. 8PM Jaspar Lepak
- 23rd, Sat. 8PM Marc Anderson: percussion & story-telling
- 24th, Sun. 3PM Bill Staines

March

- 2nd, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich Blues Trio
- 9th, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead
- 16th, Sat. 8PM Montana Skies
- 23rd, Sat. 8PM Greg Herriges

April

- 6th, Sat. 8PM Dean Magraw and friends
- 13th, Sat. 8PM Steve Kaul and the Brass Kings
- 20th, Sat. 8PM Jennifer Markey
- 27th, Sat. 8PM Switchback
- 28th, Sun 3PM Danny Schmidt & Carrie Elkin

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

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

www.oakcentergeneralstore.com

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