

folk forum

winter/spring 2012

Somethin's happenin' here. What it is ain't exactly clear. There's a man with a gun over there, tellin' me I got to beware. It starts when you're always afraid, step outa' line the man comes and takes you away... Think it's time we STOP! Children, watch that sound, everybody look what's goin' down.

(Buffalo Springfield)

Hello friends,

Hope you are well. It is time to get our new music calendar out to you, and time again for me to attempt to put out some thoughts that might be inspiring or useful. My instinct is to just hunker down on the farm and do my thing. When you listen or read the news, the world is crazier and more frustrating than ever. I have turned my radio off to avoid the pre-election circus and constant ruminating over the economy. Things are a mess. Where do we start? People are standing up to the (Machine/Beast) and camping out in public places to start a national discussion on strategies and actions.

Battle lines bein' drawn. Nobody's right if everybody's wrong. Young people speakin' their minds, getting' so much resistance from behind... (more Buffalo Springfield)

That song brings back memories from protests in the 60's. There was an election goin' on then too, (in '68), and a crazy immoral war. There were problems with the economy too, but we hadn't had Reagan and the Bushes to tear down the New Deal reforms and initiate pre-emptive war foreign policy that would lead us into moral and fiscal bankruptcy. Or Democrats like Clinton to slide thru GATT and NAFTA while we were distracted by "don't ask, don't tell" and Monica Lewinsky, (thanks for that Newt!). Or like Obama to promise change and under the guise of bi-partisanship make more war and defer to mega-money and agri-business. 40 years ago the planet was already feeling the effects of industrial consumerism, but humans hadn't yet hit their stride with mass consumption. Citizens were noticing big cracks in American democracy but when the civil rights legislation passed and the (Viet Nam) war ended, citizens got lost in their jobs and fell asleep. The Beast moved in and took over. In many ways democracy is like a house. It needs constant maintenance. If the rain and rats get in, it will eventually fall down even if the foundation is good.

Occupy Wall Street was a natural/logical 1st step in this citizen movement. Wall Street is a large player in our deep economic woes. An economic system that rewards astronomical sums to speculators, con-men in expensive suits/suites, and pirates who looted and sacked our vessels of commerce and industry, is not sustainable. Purchased politicians do the bidding of the wealthy while dismantling democratic controls. Elections have become the auction block while creating the illusion of democracy. Occupation and resistance is a good first step in expressing refusal to acquiesce, to initiate discussion and action, and to reclaim the democratic process. The repression of the Occupy movement by an increasingly militarized police force must not succeed or we will not get the Beast out of the house. We cannot continue business as usual. The movement must maintain its non-violent integrity, and the rest of us must give them deep

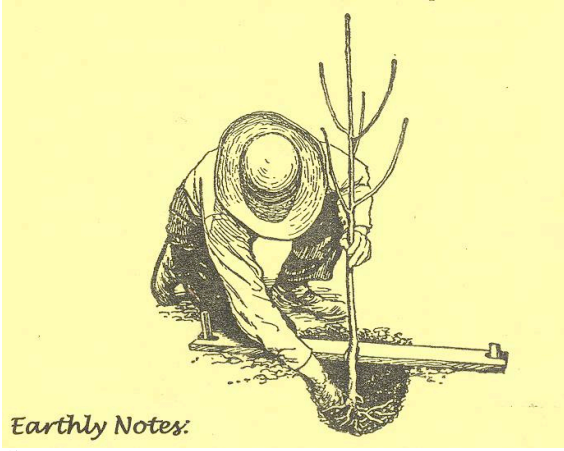
support, take our turns visiting occupations, and initiate sympathetic actions. It is all of us who have everything at stake. Visible plans of action must emerge and those actions that were underway before the Occupation began must connect, become more visible, (media and press, listen up!!), teach what they have learned, and gain strength. **The election charades again threaten to derail significant action and distract from the issues.** It is reminiscent of those "tin cat" repeating mousetraps. No need for real bait, the mouse thinks there may be something inside. You wind it up every once in a while and it collects the mice one by one. The ones inside make enough noise to attract others to the trap.

A major consciousness shift needs to occur here, and to be honest, some major lifestyle changes. It is a daunting thought, perhaps a delusional dream, but without those changes, things will not get fixed. The Beast will not go away as long as it gets fed. A major step in that direction is divestment. The Beast gets its immense power from paper. Paper wealth that gives title and control over resources only has power because we give it power. It has value because we let it have value. How it gets distributed has become a dysfunctional game of chance and insider advantages. We have let ourselves become dependent on it. We need to divest ourselves from this currency and begin to transition our lives back toward a currency of true value, a currency of human relationships, of work ethics and contributions to REAL good, healthy land, ecological practices, ecological lifestyles, and inherent justice. We have become too accustomed to accepting the contrived value assigned to paper by the mythological "free-market", bearing the hidden costs, and being blinded to the distant tragedies. It has been the delusional belief in its existence, and the unquestioning idolatry of it that has enabled it to take us this far into the abyss.

I am desperately trying to keep from losing heart. I hope you will not either. Nero probably fiddled while Rome burned because in the end, he recognized music as being more eternal than the power and extravagance of Rome and it gave him shelter. I'm not ready to just play music as the titanic goes down, but in times like these music gives us grace and strength to carry on. As for finding that "currency of true values"... produce good things and share them. Bless nature with your practices. Plant gardens of flowers and food, preserve foods, tighten up your house, use less, buy less, drive less, use daylight, enjoy the night and it's moon and stars. Ride bicycles, pick berries, learn about herbs, hunt mushrooms in the woods and meadows, make your own wine and beer, do yoga early in the morning, greet the sun, read, play games with people, go to farmers' markets and speak with others in person. Plant Truffula trees. Car-pool to concerts at Oak Center! (Don't park in my neighbor's lot!) Shine your love-light, be happy, comfort someone who is sad. See you in the big room!

Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair,



Earthly Notes.

Thank you

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed financially or volunteered to help keep folk forum alive. Thanks to Kathy, the Lynn's, and Sierra for all your constant and "in the nick of time" help, and to Kathy's mom Joan, to Fred for his patience, to Korbin, Patricia, Adam and Renee, Jordan, and everyone else who has pitched in to lend a hand. Thank you Doug Duncan for helping with the website and recording select shows. A special thanks and deep gratitude to Carol Reynolds, Mike Perry, Lawrence Schwanke, Carolyn and Ron Drude, for their steady support and to everyone else who made donations to help cover our expenses. A big thanks to the dedicated poster hangers: Frank Hawthorne, Jim and Claire Abbot, and Betty Oudahl. Lastly, to the Rochester Post Bulletin, the Lake City Graphic, Stacey Bengs at Applause and Ellen Stanley at KFAI radio for their coverage of events. I pass on the gratitude we receive from our patrons and visitors on this magical shared journey. We thank those who purchase tickets thru the mail in advance for making our lives easier.

Volunteers for folk forum- it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without generous help from you. **We still need some volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Plainview & other surrounding communities. We often are short on volunteers to help cleaning up before & after shows, making food, etc.** If you can help, please let us know when you are available. If you would like to make a donation, or purchase tickets, **checks can be made out to folk forum and mailed to: folk forum, 67011**

hwy63, Lake City, MN 55041. Enclose a note of explanation please, or call (507) 753-2080, or email: 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!!

THE MENU:

Concerts \$15 regular, \$5 low income; kids freewill donation

THE PINES

Saturday, Jan 14th, 8PM

Traditional acoustic/roots music spiced with indie & blues

With their much-anticipated third record "Dark So Gold"-Jan.31st on the verge of release, The Pines return to one of their favorite venues in the Midwest for an intimate night of music. Previewing brand-new material from their upcoming release and featuring various members of The Pines expanded, full band ensemble, Oak Center is the perfect place to catch these Iowa favorite sons as they continue to reach larger and larger audiences. David Huckfelt & Benson Ramsey lead

an impressive cast of players including Alex Ramsey on keyboards, JT Bates on drums, and James Buckley on bass.

JOE AND VICKI PRICE

Saturday, Jan. 21st, 8PM

Get-down Blues

Joe and Vicky Price are a husband & 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. A lively show, come feel the music & shake them bones...

STACEY EARLE AND MARK STUART

Saturday, Jan. 28th, 8PM

Relevant, moving lyrics and stories, incredible harmonies

This husband & wife duo dazzles audiences with the complete package. With clever acoustic guitar interplay, autobiographical songwriting, lovely harmonies, and humorous storytelling this couple captivates your attention from the first moment they are onstage. Based out of Tennessee, Earle and Stuart draw from blues, pop, country, rock, and more in their heartfelt music. Years of touring the folk/Americana circuit (playing 170 concerts a year) have given them a knack for reaching out to audiences in an intimate "come in to my living room" fashion.

MILES JOHNSTON QUARTET

Saturday Feb. 4th, 8PM

Jazz ensemble

Miles Johnston is a professional performer and an academic when it comes to jazz standards. He has performed in our region for 20+ years with many well-known local musicians. He knows his stuff and his performance of old standards is right on. He is not only a fine drummer, but a top shelf jazz vocalist in the understated Nat King Cole/ Chet Baker vein. You'll hear some Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington as well as some other icons of the era. He brings 3 other great musicians, with John Paulson on sax and flute, Larry Price on piano, and Mike Sloane on upright bass. This is a great place to see and appreciate this band.

DEAN MAGRAW AND DAITHI SPROULE

Saturday Feb. 11th, 8PM

Irish flavored extra-terrestrial folk- jazz

"Incredible and edible...actually delicious!" is how we have described guitarist Dean Magraw in the past. His amazing soulful playing has graced our stage with a veritable cornucopia of uber-talented musicians from all over the world. Tonight he is joined by one of the best, singer/guitarist Daithi Sproule! Daithi, a native of Ireland, now resides in St. Paul. In the Irish folk world, he is known as a deep well of the traditional Irish music repertoire. He has recorded and toured with many of the most revered artists of that genre, but is particularly well known for his many decades of touring and recording with the Irish super-group, Altan. Together, their highly melodic guitars weave a succulent tapestry of music and mirth... their shared joy in the moment becomes our shared joy as we lose ourselves in the mystic swirl of the vibrating strings. Get ready to FEEL it!

CLIFF EBERHARDT WITH TIM FAST OPENING

Friday Feb. 17th, 8PM

Newfolk with great humor in between

Cliff Eberhardt is a songwriter's songwriter with a lyrical sophistication that could easily occupy a chapter in the great American songbook. Combining world-class lyricism and contemporary catchwords & phrases, he is the rare musician who can

deliver a heartbreaking lyric with a subtle twist of humor. Two decades of touring and recording have led to a new endeavor for Cliff, who has been hired by the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, to compose original music for and perform in, their Spring 2012 production of the Taming of the Shrew. His bluesy guitar and Ray Charles-like vocals, along with his passion and wit make him an artist and soul worth experiencing.

STEVE KAUL AND THE BRASS KINGS

Saturday, Feb. 25th, 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 & The Brass Kings, bring quick finger picking Acoustic and Resonator guitar playing to new heights with extended sets incorporating washtub bass & washboard. The energy & drive of this homemade band is impossible to ignore. It will again be a very special night.

BILL STAINES with TREVOR MARTY opening

Sunday, Feb. 26th 2PM

Traditional and original folk and country

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

PAUL MAYASICH TRIO, RAMM – Real American Made Music

Sat. March 3rd, 8PM

Blues, Roots music

Paul Mayasich brings his sweet blues vocals, awesome guitar playing, & his new trio, RAMM to Oak Center. John Iden is on bass and there is a great new percussion player, Hye Pockets on the trap set. The perfect mix of American music in all its shapes and forms including Classic, Motown, R&B, Funk, Rock & Roll, Americana and a taste of the best in Blues. We dare you to stay in your seat!

BARRA

Saturday, March 10th, 8PM

Gaelic dance band

Barra (Gaelic for summit or top of) has a focus on performing traditional Irish dance music as well as ballads, songs & listening tunes with the design of carrying on the ceilidh band tradition. The Barra Dance Band features John McCormick-accordion & bagpipes; Deborah Martin-fiddle; Paul Garding-guitar/vocals; & Amy Shaw-Irish flute, & Dave Cammack on accordion & bodhran. The group promises an energetic assortment of tunes.

SCOTTIE MILLER BLUES BAND

Friday, March 16th 8PM

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

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

CLAIRSEACH

Saturday March 17th, 8PM

Historical and traditional Gaelic harp, song & more

From ancient chant, ceol mor and planxties to dance music, ballads, humor & improvisation, internationally-acclaimed artists Ann & Charlie Heymann bring the magical sound of ancient Gaelic harp to modern ears. Playing a replica harp with gold bass strings, Ann & singer/ multi-instrumentalist/ husband Charlie (& sometimes step-dancing daughters Orla & Honor) present diverse & engaging concert

programs with Gaelic harp, vocals, wooden flute, whistles, cittern, guitar, percussion, accordion & concertina.

BOILED IN LEAD

Friday, March 23rd, 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.

AXIS MUNDI

Saturday, Mar. 24th, 8PM

World-beat, modern and traditional jazz

Axis Mundi, meaning "the world tree", plays an alluring mixture of world-beat grooves combined with elements of modern & traditional jazz. This savvy quintet featuring guitar, violin, percussion, bass and drums plays a rich mixture of jazz, infused with Latin rhythms, Caribbean and Middle Eastern sounds. Joining guitarist/ composer Glen Helgeson are fiddle god, Gary Schulte; bass-man extraordinaire, Cody McKinny; stratospheric-jazz drummer Dave Stanoch; & world-groove percussion master, Michael Bissonnette. The dynamic quintet is fresh, tasty & authentic

CURTIS & LORETTA

Saturday, March 31st, 8PM

Celtic, Eclectic, folk and originals

Exquisite harmonies, moving and incisive songwriting –feeding conscience, heart and your love chakra; acoustic mainstays Curtis & Loretta play the kind of music that earned them the honor "Best Acoustic Performers of the Twin Cities" by City Pages. They are skilled musicians playing a huge array of stringed instruments including Celtic Harp, mandocello, mandolin, guitar, banjo, claw-hammer dulcimer & ukulele. Loretta has even graced us with virtuoso kazoo when the occasion required it. As City Pages described, Curtis & Loretta "represent one of the purest and most accessible pleasures in Celtic or Folk music." All this plus two warm, genuine personalities is a recipe for a memorable evening.

DANNY SCHMIDT & CARRIE ELKIN

Sunday, April 1st, 8PM

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 musical and personal chemistry is spectacular.

SALLY BARRIS

Friday, April 13th 8PM

Progressive folk, country blues

Whether in her own hands or those of hit artists like Martina McBride or Lee Ann Womack, Sally Barris' music makes an indelible impression. Her songs have also been covered by Trisha Yearwood & Keith Urban, John Michael Montgomery, Kathy Mattea & many others; but fans and peers are most captivated by her bright spirit & high mountain soprano. Mattea says, "Sally Barris has a voice like sparkling crystal." Come see her light up the big room.

SAWTOOTH BLUGRASS BAND

Saturday, April 14th 8PM

Bluegrass

In the tradition of classic bluegrass brother harmonies, the Sawtooth Bluegrass Band, with two sets of musical brothers, melds the sounds of the original masters with the fresh sounds of today. Combining close harmony vocals with driving instrumentation, their show is fun and high energy and leaves audiences wanting more.

DAN NEWTON & CAFE' ACCORDION

Saturday, Apr. 21st, 8PM

French Musette, vintage swing, Euro-Latino dance music

Cafe Accordion performs music that was heard in Parisian cafes and dance halls in the 1920's and other music that will make you want to shove the chairs up against the walls, don a beret, & grab somebody to fling across the dance floor. Fueled by Dan Newton's accordion & encyclopedic musical knowledge, stoked by Brian Barnes on guitar, Eric Mohring on mandolin, Erik Lillestol on upright bass, & Joe Stenger on drums, this band is as hot as they come.

RAY BONNEVILLE

Friday, April 27th, 8PM

Blues, Poetry

Ray Bonneville is a roaming blues poet, inspired by the road and the many other places he has called home - New Orleans, Colorado, Arkansas, Alaska, Boston, Seattle, Paris, France, Montreal & Austin, Texas. A one-man band, he backs up weathered, storytelling vocals with a highly percussive guitar, dramatic harmonica lines and a foot that keeps a rock steady beat.

SWITCHBACK

Saturday, April 28th 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 with their unique American Roots music blended with Celtic Soul. Wherever they play, no matter the size or age of the audience, they captivate & charm with their energy & creativity.

folk forum CALENDAR IN BRIEF Winter/ Spring 2012

January

14th, Sat. 8PM The Pines

21st, Sat. 8PM Joe and Vicki Price

28th, Sat. 8PM Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart

February

4th, Sat. 8PM Miles Johnston Quartet

11th, Sat. 8PM Dean Magraw and friends

17th, Fri. 8PM, Clif Eberhardt with Tim Fast Opening

25th, Sat. 8PM Steve Kaul and the Brass Kings

26th, Sun. 2PM Bill Staines with Trevor Marty Opening

March

3rd, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich Trio

10th, Sat. 8PM Barra

16th, Fri. 8PM Scottie Miller Blues Band

17th, Sat. 8PM Clairseach

23rd, Fri. 8PM Boiled in Lead

24th, Sat. 8PM, Axis Mundi

31st, Sat. 8PM, Curtis and Loretta

April

1st, Sun. 2PM Danny Schmidt & Carrie Elkin

13th, Fri. 8PM Sally Barris

14th, Sat. 8PM Sawtooth Bluegrass Band

21st, Sat. 8PM Dan Newton and Café Accordion

27th, Fri. 8PM Ray Bonneville

28th, Sat. 8PM Switchback

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

folk forum
c/o Oak Center General Store
67011 Hwy 63
Lake City, MN 55041