

# folk forum

fall 2010

*Tell me, over and over and over again my friend...*

*That you don't believe, we're on...the eve of destruction.*

Barry McGuire; "Eve Of Destruction"

*Hello again fellow travelers,*

I woke up early one morning to Barry McGuire singing "Eve of Destruction". It has felt for a long time that we are getting close. Hey, that song was from the 60's. Well, we're on the eve of something; either enlightenment or destruction. To a farmer or gardener, fall is the eve of destruction for much of the garden, the end of a season of preparing the soil and planting seeds, acting as mid-wife at the birthing in spring, then inter-twining soul and body in a nurturing dance with nature thru the summer. Aye! It is a dance with life itself. Every child should grow to know nature as a lover as well as mother and a father. In this death of summer, the remorse is small. It is not a dying but a culmination of what has given us fulfillment, magic and mystery...has given a place and a purpose for our lives that makes sense, bringing easy harmony to a complex tune. There is joy in harvesting real sustenance from this embrace with life in nature's circle. Winter will be a time to sleep with this lover we danced with all season, this lover that we wrestled with and negotiated with, a lover that we have worked side by side with and got to know more deeply. Together we will rest and reminisce on this page of life turned. Frozen stalks of kale and cabbage poking thru the snow, like memories and old photos, will be nature's record. We can still count on spring coming in the morning that follows winter's rest. We can anticipate being able to roll over and kiss this lover awake for another season's dance.

At this hour however, in this time of the human drama, it is easy to wonder how late into the evening the band will keep playing. When the music is good it feels like we could dance all night. I hope our kids will feel the music and the magic of nature's dance in spite of all the distractions and flotsam in the sea of electronic gizmos and material options we have plunged them into. I pray we will inspire and teach them how to float above it all...and I fear we may all drown in this un-natural sea.

These times have a feel like a storm is brewing. This kind of storm has a feel to it that there may be something life changing in it. It is not bold and truthful like rolling thunder in the distance, the way it sounds when the trees are bent low and the leaves are madly shaking. It is more sinister and treacherous, like the stillness and yellow-green sky in the stifling heat that portends a tornado. There is a feel in the air that tells us to pay attention. Though we have become slightly aware that the leaks haven't been patched yet and there are a bunch of windows and doors that need to be latched, it feels that this "civilization" in the modern era will continue on its way oblivious and lost in denial...and we will awaken when the roof comes off.

In this journey we share...all of us on this Earth, we are in the midst of a change-time. Perhaps all plants and animals included, unless of course some of them will live the luxury of lives that go

on in quiet persistence outside the dramas of our species' **politics of materialism**, adorned with wars and recessions, free-ways and not-so-free-ways, oil-spills, nuke plants, toxic waste sites, strip mines and dump sites, strip-malls, Wal-marts and Targets all filled with plastic stuff milked from the blood and sweat of poverty wages and poverty in spirit. The "Big Boxes" slowly starve communities while enriching an elite few. We hope when this storm hits with full fury we will have battened down the right hatches... and when the skies clear, civilization is bio-degradable and rainbows will appear.

Which hatches do we need to batten down? We have wars that need to end, religious and political dysfunctions to get over, serious energy addictions to own up to and deal with, and a lot of wounded people to nurture. Somehow we have to get over honoring and tolerating ethics that tell us it is ok to amass huge sums of wealth while laying waste to either earth or communities. Much of that wealth today was not acquired do to fair measure of work or contribution to common good, but by manipulation and swindle. It is ok to return a chunk of those ill-begotten gains into the common coffers to repair the damage, and build for the common good. We need to get over the ethic that says it is ok to live beyond the means of our planet and beyond the means of a sound home economy. We must stand in outrage as our nation kills innocent civilians in their own lands and calls them collateral damage. It is not OK to hunt "suspected" insurgents or Taliban with drones from a monitor thousands of miles away And what makes someone "our enemy"? Is it because they don't like foreign soldiers in their homeland messing with their affairs? On 9/11, president Obama appealed to that "us vs. them" mentality when he pounded the same war drums and declared again, "they didn't just attack America on our soil, they attacked the very essence that America stands for." **Hello Mr. Obama...** you have got to be kidding. You were elected because most of America didn't believe the trade Towers and Wall St. were what America stood for. Instead, you sold out and used bi-partisanship as a cover for business as usual. The Golden Rule is not "Those with the gold rule". Tax it back for common good!

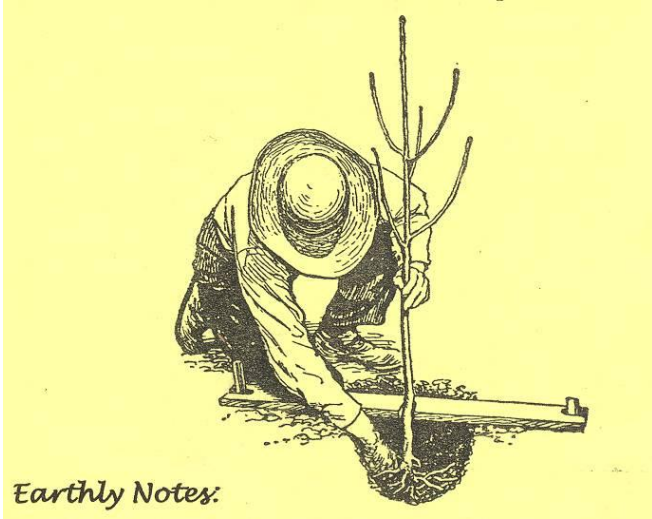
*Truth is the eye of the storm...And I must be more than a mind making a fertile place to grow. I am... a poet who speaks to the deaf...a scribe whose ledger is the wind...a rainbow in the mind of the blind.* **H. Rap Brown**

So where does the hope and inspiration come from to heal us and direct us? Well, this is a love-letter. It is love that we must find in God, in Creation, and in ourselves. Love of this journey, love of each other. Hard love, soft love, nurturing love, love with responsibility. Like sun coming in thru the trees on a long portage, it will guide our steps.

There is some great music coming to the big room upstairs starting October 2 and carrying us along until spring. May we gather good medicine for the work that awaits us...

Love and peace,

Maintenance and Repair,



*Earthly Notes*

**Thank you**

- Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help us keep folk forum alive with your time or donations. Thanks to Korbin, to the Lynn's, and to Nate and Kerry for all your help keeping the programs going. Thanks to Kurt and Betty for the printer. Thanks to Lawrence Schwanke, Michael Perry, Alan and Judy Hoffman, the Drudes, and everyone else who sent in donations of any amount. I pass on all the **thank you's** we receive from our patrons and visitors to the community for this magical shared journey...to you.

**Volunteers for folk forum**—it is a difficult act to do all these fine programs without the generous help from you. **We could sure use some volunteers to hang posters in Rochester, Red Wing, Wabasha, Plainview and other surrounding communities. We always need regular volunteers to help clean up before and after shows, make food, etc.** 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!!

**THE MENU**

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

**BRUCE MOLSKY and DAROL ANGER**

**Saturday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8PM**

**Exquisite fiddle, guitar, banjo and vocals- Appalachia to Ireland**

Two of the most influential violinists of the last 30 years join forces: Famed freestyle fiddle master Darol Anger and legendary fiddler/banjo/guitarist/singer Bruce Molsky unite to cover close to the entire fiddle spectrum. They play tunes reminiscent of

Appalachian soul, to the rhythmically nimble sounds of Scandinavia, all the way to the haunting modal strains of Ireland. Bruce Molsky has played music from an astonishingly broad range of cultures during the past two decades and has found something uniquely his own. Paired with versatile fiddler, composer, producer and educator Darol Anger this show is sure to intoxicate you with their fiddling frenzy.

**THE PINES**

**Saturday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

**Traditional acoustic/roots music spiced with indie & blues**

Meeting in a Mexican barrio in Arizona, fellow Iowans David Huckfelt and Benson Ramsey struck up a musical connection and formed The Pines. They have emerged as a force in the roots music world, blending sounds of indie-rock, folk, and blues behind the keystone of their conscious lyrics. Their growth as artists is unparalleled in wisdom and songwriting. They mesmerize audiences by evoking the ancient while incorporating new rock and pop grooves.

**MIKE MANGIONE & THE UNION**

**Saturday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

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

Mike Mangione & The Union is a touring group that combines a folk-rock sound with an orchestrated string section, soulful vocals and literate sensibility. The band's previous album, *Tenebrae*, has 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".

**THE CHRIS SILVER BAND: opener: TREVOR MARTY**

**Saturday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8PM**

**Bluegrass with global rhythms and contemporary themes**

Chris Silver, formerly playing with Stoney Lonesome and Kate MacKenzie is an extraordinary musician with a gifted sense of what makes good music. 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.

**BOB FRANKE**

**Sunday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2PM**

**A songwriters songwriter, superb guitar and vocals**

Bob Franke is at the peak of his considerable craft: brimming with the wise and spiritually generous songs for which he is best known, along with wrenchingly convincing songs sugared with the hilarious. His songs really do have the power to change the world by changing people. Tom Paxton says, "it's his integrity. I always think of Bob as if Emerson and Thoreau had picked up acoustic guitars and gotten into songwriting...with touches of Mark Twain and Buddy Holly." Bob's songs are considered classics, fueled by his deep faith and real-life lessons.

**CLIFF EBERHARDT: opening with TIM FAST**

**Saturday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 8PM**

**Newfolk with great humor in between**

A Pennsylvania native, Cliff Eberhardt has been a driving force of the Greenwich Village New Folk Movement. He was voted one

of the top 100 folk musicians of the last 20 years. He is a superb singer who approaches the guitar with stylistic eloquence that easily rank him among guitar virtuosos. His lyrics cover a vast credible range of emotions and he articulates them with stunning clarity. His bluesy guitar and Ray Charles-like vocals, his passion and his wit make him an artist and soul worth seeing.

**STACEY EARLE and MARK STUART**

*Sunday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2PM*

*Relevant, moving lyrics and stories, incredible harmonies*

This Husband-wife duo dazzle 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. The years of touring the folk/Americana circuit (playing 170 concerts a year) have given them a knack for reaching out to the audience in an intimate “come in to my living room” fashion.

**ROBBY VEE**

*Friday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 8PM*

*Rock, pop, rockabilly, and bop*

Robby Vee hails from one of popular music’s most hallowed legacies, “the Rock ‘N’ Roll Family”. He is steeped in rock’s timeless traditions of pop, swing, rockabilly and bop. Robby’s talent, creativity and perseverance as a singer/guitarist/songwriter and entertainer has earned him the chance to share credits and the stage with the architects and legends of Rock. Robby Vee is on lead vocals and guitar, King Creole on stand-up bass, and Jeff Bjork on drums. Rock ‘n’ Roll never dies...

**BRET HESLA and LINDA BREITAG**

*Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 8PM*

*Good-time songs for peace and change*

Bret Hesla and Linda Breitag bring hope and inspiration in these desperate times. They have a long history of performing for good causes. Their repertoire is full of songs of peace and justice, highlighting local places, events, and actions with strong vocals, sweet fiddle, steady guitar and mega-energy...all renewable and sustainable! Intimate, personal and up-beat...we all need it!

**ERIK KOSKINEN and PAUL BERGEN**

*Sat. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Folk/Blues/Country fusion*

Best known as an ace guitarist (for Molly Maher, Randy Weeks), 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 those artists like Sting and Bon Jovi. All that aside, Erik and Paul Bergen came down last fall to fill in for The Pines who cancelled due to illness. It was the best new act of the year. Erik plays with a whole lot of diverse musicians. The vocals and lyrics are great, the guitar extraordinary and Paul Bergen is just plain awesome on guitar. This show is very good!!!

**Opening by: Michelle Lynn**

**MY SWEET PATOOTIE**

*Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 2PM*

*Fiddle, guitar, vocal harmonies and fun!*

Terry Young (guitar and vocals) and Sandra Swannell (fiddle and vocals) of My Sweet Patootie are more fun than drinking martinis at a tractor pull! They are the “li’l big band” that’s busy ripping

up the pea-patch with their very own strain of hayseed jazz. Armed with fiddle, finger-style guitar and two voices, My Sweet Patootie is an old fashioned shotgun wedding of cool uptown swing and rural Ontario grit. Mark S. Tucker of the Folk & Music Exchange (FAME) describes them as “a world of string wizardry”. Want a fun afternoon with neighbors from Canada?

**CHUCK and ANDRA SUCHY**

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

*Folk music originals and storytelling*

Again we host our favorite farmer/folksinger Chuck Suchy. Chuck comes with his daughter Andra this year. Andra has been heard frequently of late on the Garrison Keillor show. Chuck’s 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 evening...even better having Andra back.

**THE GALACTIC COWBOY ORCHESTRA**

*Saturday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 8PM*

*Newgrass Art-Rock*

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

**CHARLIE PARR**

*Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</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". There is something clear and solid about this guy.

**MONROE CROSSING**

*Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2PM*

*Bluegrass*

Celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2010, 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...

**JEFF CAHILL, LONNIE KNIGHT, and TERRY FOI**

*Saturday, Dec. 11, 8PM*

*Folk, humor, storytelling*

Jeff Cahill put down his string bass and picked up his first guitar in the 60’s. He has been a wandering musician most of his life, hanging around with Utah Philips, Rosalee Sorrels, Pete Seeger, and other all-time great movement musicians. It helped shape his musical abilities and the insights inherent in his music. He is also plays mandolin, is a great storyteller and funny as heck to boot. Singer-songwriter Lonnie Knight got his start as a folkie, learning

from the likes of Townes Van Zandt and played in some of the Midwest's seminal rock bands, including Jokers Wild, The Nielsen-White Band and the Hoopsnakes. Terry Foi adds more great storytelling for dessert.

**ERIK KOSKINEN, MOLLY MAHER, and DAVE SIMONETT**  
**Friday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 8PM**

**Blues/folk/country/fusion**

Erik is back spicing it up with the lead vocalist/guitarist from the bluegrass sensation Trampled By Turtles, Dave Simonett. And it doesn't stop there. The pair forms a trio with St. Paul Americana musician Molly Maher. Her guitar playing is rural and soulful. Breaking all conventions, she plays her guitar upside down and in different tunings. Elizabeth Cotton would be proud! Her voice? The apparent lovechild of Ricki lee Jones and Bonnie Rait.

**TANGLED ROOTS**

**Sat. December 18<sup>th</sup> 8PM**

**Bluegrass**

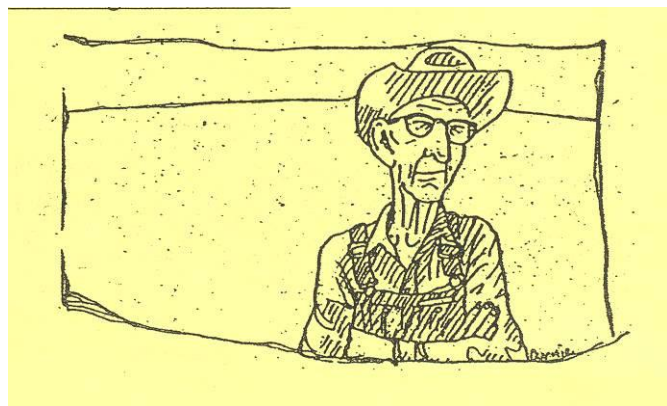
Performing a wide range of music from bluegrass classics to the contemporary tunes of John Prine, Kevin Welch, Bruce Cockburn, and Elvis Presley, Tangled Roots is one of the most energetic and entertaining bands to hit the bustling Minnesota Bluegrass scene. The band is made up of some of the best known bluegrass performers in the Midwest. Come have a bluegrass Christmas with us!

*folk forum*

c/o Oak Center General Store

67011 hwy 63

Lake City, MN 55041



*folk forum* **CALENDAR IN BRIEF Fall 2010**

**October**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Sat. 8PM Bruce Molsky and Darol Anger

9<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Pines

16<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Mike Mangione and The Union

23<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 8PM The Chris Silver Band; Trevor Marty opens

24<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Bob Franke

30<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Cliff Eberhardt; Tim Fast opens

31<sup>st</sup>, Sun. 2PM Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart

**November**

5<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8PM Robby Vee

6<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Bret Hesla and Linda Breitag

13<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Erik Koskinen and Paul Bergen

14<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM My Sweet Patootie

20<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Chuck and Andra Suchy

27<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Galactic Cowboy Orchestra

**December**

4<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Charlie Parr

5<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 2PM Monroe Crossing

11<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Jeff Cahill, Lonnie Knight, Terry Foi

17<sup>th</sup>, Fri. 8 PM: Erik Koskinen, Molly Maher, and Dave Simonett

18<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 8PM Tangled Roots

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

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

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