

folk forum

winter/spring 2011

I don't have to read the news, or hear it on the radio. I can see it on the faces of all the people I know.

The reason we're here is all the farms around, what's gonna happen to our little town?

I don't have to read the news or hear it on the radio. I can see it on the faces of all the people I know.

The boards go up and the signs come down, what's gonna happen to our little town (Greg Brown).

Hello friends,

My last letter to you was a love letter. I try really hard to focus on love and nurture it to keep from becoming consumed with anger and rage over what is happening in our world. It's very difficult when we tend to take on the troubles of the world, as difficult today as ever. As the 2nd decade of the new millennium and the 2nd half of our folk forum music season begin, there is an overwhelming amount of chaos and injustice descending upon us. We are besieged by a storm of un-truths contrived to manipulate people thru fear, greed, self-interest, hatred, and racism, and we are pushed into an "us vs, them" view of the world.

We began the century with fraudulent elections and the horrific, incredibly suspicious 9/11 "attack on America". We stood by in shock as our own leaders launched brash and unapologetic attacks on other countries, on democracy, on the Bill of Rights, on the earth, and on reason itself. The ensuing plunder and pillage of the earth, resource grabs and wholesale economic fraud created a few super-wealthy, many deaths, and plunged the whole world into economic, political, and climactic free-fall. Perhaps we were deluded that democracy was still working. At any rate, our hopes were dashed by the realization that money in America is much more powerful than dreams of justice, altruism, and a commonwealth for all. Allowing wealth to concentrate in the possession of the least moral and most self-interested, and then giving it license to express that interest regardless of benefit to democracy or common good is dangerous to all of our loftiest ideals. Some of the most vocal advocates of unrestricted wealth, elevate it above human rights and justice. Some claim allegiance to Christian values. Many claim ownership of pro-life values while they vote for war and pollution, or help create poverty wages and reduced standard of living for working people by shipping jobs over seas and fixing low prices on farm products replacing the middle class with a new class, the working poor. Mammon, as it is called in the New Testament of the Bible, is their real master. It is the Beast served by much of America and has seduced and captured the soul of this nation. Now it reaches its tentacles to every corner of the earth.

We are surrounded by battles everywhere, bullets, bombs, malfeasance \$, or harsh words. Birds are falling from the sky. Floods of the century, droughts of the century, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, snowstorms of the century...the planet seems to be, as my carpenter friend and favorite trout fisherman Dave Dinsmore says, "trying to get rid of the human ticks". "For everything, there is a season..." and it seems this may be the

season humanity becomes clinched in battle against the Beast...and for survival.

ANGST. I first heard the term in a psych class in college. Carl Jung described it, but we all knew the feeling. Webster's describes it as "a gloomy, often neurotic feeling of generalized anxiety and depression." Do you have it? It is interesting that it is preceded in Webster's by the definition for; **an'gry young men;** "a group of young writers in Great Britain after WW II bitterly critical of upper class and middle class values and practices."

We are not alone in history. The angst and anger are still here. When I was in my 20's, the Viet Nam war was raging and for young men, if your number was up and your grades were down, you got a ticket to slog thru rice paddies and jungles saturated with agent orange, dropping grenades down holes in smoldering villages while bereaved mothers and grandmothers screamed at you in a language you didn't understand. The angst of the times went deeper than the fears of young men facing the draft. There was angst about living meaningless, misdirected lives out of sync with the planet and with the rest of humanity. Zeitgeist, "spirit of the times" was another term used a lot. There were so many parts of our world that needed to be fixed, and many had hope of fixing it. The Zeitgeist swept people along in a wave of hope and a sense of responsibility to all of humanity. It was for the most part democratic, spontaneous, and egalitarian, based on love, justice, and harmony with nature.

Today the battle rages as it did then. The powerful seek to hold onto their advantage at the expense of the meek and of the earth. It seems, given the global nature of humanity's problems and the immensity of the earth's growing instability, that there is only one big battle left and it is about to be waged. And the battles waged for power, excess, or revenge...to what end are they waged if it leaves the planet a smoldering, polluted ruin and the people set apart from each other? Concentration of wealth, especially unearned wealth, juxtaposed against hardships and poverty will create tensions that can only lead to violence, brutality, loss of freedoms and life.

We in this human family must see that we are potentially all part of the Beast or feeding it. There is a light that can guide us out, a light that comes from discovering deeper love that extends beyond self. It is love that comes from understanding our place in the larger scheme of things, immersed in the beauty of the natural world and mindful of preserving and sustaining it. Collectively, humans need to learn from the past, be gracious for its gifts, forgive its sins, and take care not to repeat them.

Be resolute, be strong, persist and resist evil. Let us defend what is good. As we begin this new decade, we look forward to listening to some great music with you in the big room at Oak Center. 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 the Lynn's for all your constant and "in the nick of time" help, and to Kathy, Korbin, Erin, and everyone else who has pitched in to lend a hand. Thanks to Carol Reynolds, Lawrence Schwanke, Mike Perry, Sue Vigliaturo, Carolyn and Jeff, Alan and Judy, Jeff Bellair, and everyone else who made donations to help cover our expenses. I pass on the gratitude we receive from our patrons and visitors on this magical shared journey.

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 to: folk forum, 67011 hwy63, Lake City, MN 55041. (507)753-2080, e-mail: 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

JOE AND VICKI PRICE

Saturday, Jan. 22nd, 8PM

Get-down Blues

(Sorry the newsletter didn't get finished before this awesome concert by Joe and Vicki. It was fun!!!!)

DEL BARBER

Saturday, Jan. 29th, 8PM

Guitar/vocals/harmonica/mandolin/banjo

Born and raised on the Manitoba prairie, Del Barber is winning audiences across North America with raw talent and ample doses of charm. At just 26 yrs. Old, Barber's road tested collection of

tunes is just beginning to make its mark on Canada's competitive roots scene. One of his two full-length albums was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award for roots solo Album of the Year in 2010. Drawing from the rich well of the roots tradition, Barber's capacity to weave experiences and characters stems from a keen understanding of narrative, phrasing, and metaphor; his songs span the gulf between the sacred and the profane. Del's electrifying stage presence as he wanders seamlessly from song into story, painting diverse scenes of home, hardship, comedy, love, and loss, promises a memorable night.

MICHELLE LYNN

Saturday, Feb. 5th, 8PM

Originals/ luminous and soulful vocals

With literate, transformative lyrics, and a luminous, soulful voice, singer-songwriter Michelle Lynn connects the personal with the universal, the spiritual with the profane by confronting broad themes through the archetypes she finds in and around her. Based out of Decorah, Michelle's steady performance schedule thru-out the drift-less region of the Midwest has helped create music that is conceptually unified, lyrically compelling, musically diverse, and in an idiosyncratic style of New Age Folk that is uniquely hers. She brings Adam Ptacek on stand-up bass.

RADOSLAV LORKOVIC

Friday, Feb. 11th 8PM

Valentines show on piano, accordion; CD release party

Radoslav comes again to do his amazingly diverse and artistically performed collection of originals in all the musical genres of the planet...and he loves Valentines shows!!! Great voice, incredible piano, and other worldly accordion, it just gets better every time. There are 2 mighty fine shows this pre- Valentine's weekend...neither should be missed!

PRUDENCE JOHNSON AND DEAN MAGRAW

Saturday, Feb. 12th, 8PM

Fair Hearts and Fallen Angels

Songstress Prudence Johnson returns to our stage with one of our mostest favoritest guitar playing friends of all times, Dean Magraw. Prudence and Dean had a strong musical partnership in the 1980's and 90's, and after Dean's 16 month struggle with life threatening illness, they came together again in the fall to create "Fair Hearts and Fallen Angels", a collection of folk songs that tell stories of women in days gone by. Please come and welcome both Prudence and Dean in what will be an evening full of feeling.

SCOTTIE MILLER BLUES BAND

Saturday, Feb. 19th 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.

STEVE KAUL AND THE BRASS KINGS

Saturday, Feb. 26th, 8PM

Blending influences from African, Indian and Middle Eastern traditions - as well as good old Blues and 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 should be a very special night.

BILL STAINES

Sunday, Feb. 27th 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 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 TRIO

Sat. March 5th, 8PM

Blues, Roots music

Paul Mayasich brings his sweet blues vocals awesome guitar playing, and his new trio. John Ites is still on bass and there is a great new percussion player on the trap set. I haven't gotten an official description from Paul at this writing but he always brings a great show.

COLIN O'BRIEN

Saturday, March 12th 8PM

ecclectic mix with an Irish flavor

Colin is a prolific, nationally touring performer and recording artist. For the past 15 years he's crisscrossed the country performing at concert halls, festivals and house concerts. In a single performance, Colin dances dazzling foot percussion while playing his heart out on fiddle and banjo. Then, taking a seat, he plays some of the most beautiful, soulful guitar music this side of Mars. It's as though Colin is several musicians in one body.

PEACE IN PALESTINE BENEFIT

Sun. March 13th 2-6PM

Music of the 60's performed by many local musicians

This fundraiser is for the MN BreakThe Bonds Campaign, an organization working to end funding for the repression and apartheid being perpetrated in Palestine by Zionist elements who hold power in Israel. This organization represents both Jewish and Palestinian people who are dedicated to a peaceful resolution of conflict and creation of a peaceful, just state for both Palestinian and Jewish peoples. Lot's of good music, food, and maybe some surprise dancers!!!!

PADDY O'BRIEN AND CHULRUA

Irish traditional music

Saturday, March 19th 8PM

Paddy O'Brien is regarded by serious players and collectors of Irish traditional music as one of the tradition's most important repositories; in a career that spans nearly forty years, he has collected more than 3,000 compositions – jigs, reels, hornpipes, airs, and marches – including many rare and unusual tunes.

SPARKY AND RHONDA RUCKER

Sunday, March 20th 2PM

American Folk

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker perform throughout the U.S. as well as overseas, singing songs and telling stories from the American folk tradition. Sparky Rucker has been performing over forty years and is internationally recognized as a leading folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller and author. He accompanies himself with finger-style picking and bottleneck blues guitar, banjo and spoons. Rhonda Rucker is an accomplished harmonica, piano, banjo and bones player and adds some fine vocal harmonies to their songs.

LAURA MACKENZIE AND DAITHI SPROULE

Saturday, March 26th 8PM

Celtic, Folk

Laura has learned from many tradition bearers on both sides of the Atlantic, and has herself been recognized as a Master Folk Artist (Minnesota State Arts Board). She has been lauded as a "Celtic music wizard" by the Minneapolis Star Tribune and a "high priestess of Celtic music" by Minnesota Public Radio.

SQUARE DANCE (LIZ VOZ AND FRIENDS)

Friday, April 1st 8PM

Old-time music square dance band and caller

Liz Voz and friends come back again with Jesse calling the dances and teachin' the steps. It was great fun last time and will be great fun this time.

BOILED IN LEAD

Saturday, April 2nd 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 (and rock music to screaming folk audiences)! BiL's many instrumental dance tunes incorporate global influences, rhythms and melodies that are guaranteed to keep the feet moving. Original songs stick in the mind long after the music is over.

SAWTOOTH BLUEGRASS BAND

Saturday, March 9th 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 bluegrass masters with the fresh sounds of today. Combining close harmony vocals, driving instrumentation, and a sense of fun and high energy, they have a stage show that leaves audiences wanting more.

ANDY WHITE AND RAD LORKOVIC

Friday, April 15th 8PM

Irish folk, pop, poetry

Singer-songwriter Andy White carries a 12-string guitar under his arm and wears his particular brand of Irish charm on his sleeve. With the political edge of Billy Bragg, the romance of David Gray and the Celtic lyricism of the Waterboys, Andy s a fully paid up 21st Century Troubadour (and that's also the title of his first book, recently published in Ireland to rave reviews). Andy and Rad did one of their best shows ever last year. Andy's "I'm Free" is still echoing in many of our hearts and souls. We're excited to have them back.

SWITCHBACK

Saturday, April 16th 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.

CAROLYN CRUSO

Friday, April 22nd 8PM

Carolyn Cruso is an acclaimed multi-instrumentalist and composer. She has toured widely in both the United States and Europe. She is equally at home on hammered dulcimer, flute, guitar and vocals and performs a diverse array of original tunes and songs as well as traditional material. Her music is inspired by her strong connection to nature as well as her extensive travel and the cultures she's encountered along the way.

RAY BONNEVILLE WITH ERIK KOSKINEN

Friday the 29th 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 and Austin, Texas. A one-man band, he backs up weathered, storytelling vocals with a highly percussive guitar style, dramatic harmonica lines and a foot that keeps the rock steady beat. Erik Koskinen, one of our favorite new rising stars on the music scene is coming with Bonneville for this show.

folk forum

c/o Oak Center General Store
67011 hwy 63
Lake City, MN 55041

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 **CALENDAR IN BRIEF Spring 2011**

January

22nd, Sat. 8PM Joe Vick and Vicki Price

29th, Sat. 8PM Del Barber

February

5th, Sat. 8PM Michelle Lynn

11th, Fri. 8PM Rad Lorkovic; Valentine show and CD release

12th, Sat. 8PM Prudence Johnson and Dean Magraw

19th, Sat. 8PM Scottie Miller Blues Band

26th, Sat. 8PM Steve Kaul and the Brass Kings

27th, Sun. 2PM Bill Staines

March

5th, Sat. 8PM Paul Mayasich Trio

12th, Sat. 8PM Colin O'Brien

13th, Sun. 2-6PM Peace in Palestine Benefit; live 60's music

19th, Sat 8PM Paddy O'Brien and Chulrua

20th, Sun. 2PM Sparky and Rhonda Rucker

26th, Sat. 8PM Laura MacKenzie and Daithi Sproule

April

1st, Fri. 8PM Square Dance (Liz Voz and friends)

2nd, Sat. 8PM Boiled in Lead

9th, Sat 8PM Sawtooth Bluegrass Band

15th, Fri. 8PM Andy White and Rad Lorkovic

16th, Sat. 8PM Switchback

22nd, Fri. 8PM Carolyn Cruso

29th, Fri. 8PM Ray Bonneville with Erik Koskinen