

A Bluegrass Evening for Gene Zwozdesky

Anna's chili and blueberry pie put some sweet spice into the evening celebration of Gene Zwozdesky at Pleasantview Community Hall highlighted with an exciting traditional Bluegrass show put on by the River City Playboys.



“The NBCMS is a non-profit music society that promises to promote, present and preserve Bluegrass Music.”



Members of the Bluegrass Community, and the family of Gene Zwozdesky came together on March 13, 2019 to celebrate a man who has won numerous awards from arts and cultural organizations, was an MLA in Edmonton - Millcreek (1997 - 2015), a past Minister of Education and a huge supporter of Bluegrass.

Gene served on the board for the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival since 2017 and was involved at every level. At the time of his passing, Gene was the volunteer Treasurer for the NBCMS.

The night re-united many of our Bluegrass family and Gene's family joined us in the celebration. We reminisced of how Gene had the gift of story and could be counted on to have a joke or two, how he would visit with many... nearly all, and be selling tickets on behalf of the club.

Many kind words were said about a man for whom there are not enough kind words. We took time to think of Gene, enjoy great food, celebrate Bluegrass music, our Bluegrass family and the manner in which Gene would have celebrated each of those things alongside us...



RIVER CITY PLAYBOYS...



Thanks to (l to r) Byron Myhre, Zach Daniel Robertson, Matt Hotte, Curits Appleton and Marc Ladouceur for their masterful skills and excellent taste in Bluegrass music. *photo Mark Whittington.*

The River City Playboys are the newest hot Bluegrass Band this side of the Rockies! They consist of a bunch of world class musicians that can add tasteful rhythmic accompaniment and lead playing alongside anyone in the Bluegrass community. Most of them have Bluegrass roots that go back to the earliest days of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. They have enjoyed many opportunities to jam with each other over many years with just one very new exception!

The band was formed at the request of Derek Anderson for the Silver Skate Festival, the longest running winter festival in the City of Edmonton.

They had only a few chances to get together before playing in the bitterly freezing cold spell that held Alberta to mostly indoor activities in February... yet they were outside for 2 shows at the Silver Skate Festival in conditions that would have been jam busters for most!

Each of the fellows in the band has a remarkable story with just an

introduction provided in this article.

Byron Myhre The youngest son of Alfie and Lydia Myhre, Byron has grown up in the family business -Myhre's Music. His appearance at the store started at age seven where he could often be seen helping customers. Byron has since competed on a national level in fiddle competitions and was ranked 3rd in the Grand Masters National Fiddle contest in Ottawa. Aside from running the store, Byron is an active musician both on stage and in the studio. Along with his friend Craig Korth he was a founding member of the well-known bluegrass band "Jerusalem Ridge". They highlighted the mainstage at the Blueberry Festival for years. Byron has played with many groups over the years, most recently touring with Nomad Jones. All this while raising a beautiful family of four kids (Haley, Tanner, Ethan and Brooke) with his wife Kim.

Zach Daniel Robertson Zach is the newest member to the club

and to Bluegrass music. Watching his father play guitar as a child planted a musical seed in Zach Daniel's young mind. Raised on classic rock, it was inevitable that he would eventually be drawn to the guitar. At age 13 he got his first guitar for his birthday, and in his senior year in high school had formed a rock band with some friends and joined his school jazz band. After much encouragement from his band teacher he applied and was accepted into Grant MacEwan's Bachelor of Music program on guitar where he studied music composition with Kent Sangster and Allan Gilliland. During his time at school, Zach Daniel picked up the electric bass and started playing around town with many different acts: The Marshall Lawrence Band, The River City Jukebox, The Trio From Chicago, and The Betty Alice Effect, just to name a few. After graduating from university in 2016, Zach Daniel became very interested in "old-time" music and began playing both banjo and upright bass. He discovered the Northern Bluegrass Music Circle Society in 2018 and has been attending their jam circles fairly regularly. It was there that he met Matt Hotte who asked him to play bass with the River City Playboys in 2019. While not as steeped in tradition as some of the other members of the band, Zach Daniel looks forward to learning from and playing with them in the future.

Matt Hotte grew up in a family with deep roots in Bluegrass, Country and Old Time music. In fact, they have been dubbed the First Family of Alberta Bluegrass... Matt grew and honed his skills in

RIVER CITY PLAYBOYS...



Matt Hotte (continued) the jamming circles within this community. He played alongside his Mom Carolyn and Dad Ken, and in a duo with his sister Kayla. Their influences include the Stanley Brothers, the Monroe Brothers, and the Carter Family, and Jimmy Martin amongst others. Matt showed an aptitude for all stringed instruments as a youngster and is now an accomplished multi instrumentalist playing guitar, fiddle, banjo and mandolin with equal skills. He has won numerous fiddling trophies as well as the title of Western Canadian Banjo Champion at the age of 13. Matt is equally comfortable with lead and harmony vocals. He brings a dynamic voice that harkens back to times past within the roots of this genre. Matt has toured globally and been a member of bands including Lost Highway (California) and the Liberty Bluegrass Boys (Texas). Matt performs with his sister Kayla in a duo that re-creates times past within the Bluegrass, Country, and Old Time genres and will be performing traditional Country and Western music at the Blueberry Festival.

Curtis Appleton brings a smooth and tastefully powerful presence to the group with his 'on demand' lead skills. His clean banjo picking style is present in his rolls and solo breaks as he kicks a song off or punches in on a lead that drives the song. Curtis met Marc Ladouceur around 25 years ago when they were both invited to play at a year end party for Marc's hockey team. Curtis showed up with his banjo and Marc came with his electric guitar! They figured it out and put on a great show at the party. He has played in numerous Alberta bluegrass bands over the past 20 years, including Black Lightning, Maple Creek, and Down to the Wood. Curtis jammed with the club in the early days at the Fiddler's Roost before Pleasantview became the place. He has performed on the mainstage at the Blueberry Bluegrass and Country Music Festival and the Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival. Curtis is a teacher too.

Marc Ladouceur is the driving force behind the formation of this

band, in response to a call from a friend... Marc is an incredibly talented guitar and mandolin player. His early roots were in the electric scene, playing with rock bands including Beggars Row and the Photons! He discovered the Bluegrass scene in the early days of the Club at the Fiddler's Roost. He tells of a long haired young man trying to work up the courage to walk inside with his guitar to join the jam at the Roost. He currently performs regularly in diverse musical acts crossing the genres of Rock, Blues, Country, and Bluegrass. Marc is a talented studio musician and is available to record upon request. Over the years, Marc was a founding member of Down to the Wood, he has performed with the Lionel Rault Band, Darrell Barr, and local singer / songwriter Bob Jahrig, amongst many others. He also performs with Tim Isberg and Kayla Hotte and Her Rodeo Pals, and will be part of the group as they perform for the dance at Blueberry. Marc has performed at house concerts and the main stage at the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival. He performs and teaches at festivals and workshops. He once filled in for Steve Gulley when he was unable to make the gig for a house concert that he and Alan Bibey (Grasstowne) were scheduled to do prior to the Fall Acoustic Music Workshop. Marc describes Alan as one of the four best mandolinists in the world and Alan described Marc as a wonderful surprise, a musician he would play with anytime!

The group is looking ahead to future gigs and we are certainly looking forward to being future fans!

NORTHERN BLUEGRASS CIRCLE MUSIC SOCIETY AGM AND ELECTIONS



above: Ron Mercer showing his flare and panache. *photo Mark Whittington.*

below: the 2019 NBCMS Volunteer Board

The Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society was born in 1994 and has been carefully grown by the members of this club since. There are a number of whom that have stepped forward as volunteers to help guide and nurture the club for all existing and future members.

We should be thankful that we have such people to serve as custodians, organizers, planners, trustees, and promoters. These folks help to ensure that we achieve the goals of our mission statement “to preserve, promote and present Bluegrass music” for the enjoyment of all club members.

Deep and hearty thanks to the exiting board members for continuing the growth and traditions of this great club. We

are eager to welcome each of them back to their positions as they re-assume their roles as club and jamming circle members and performers:

- Ron Mercer past President
- Sheila Hallett past Vice - President
- Gene Zwozdesky past Treasurer
- Leonard Swanson past Secretary
- Erna Dominey past Newsletter Director
- Marlene Thomson past Front of House

Two Boll Weavels

There once were two brothers that happened to be boll weavels. They lived in Nashville and both loved bluegrass music. One brother desired more than just to destroy crops and listen to radio, so he learned to play guitar. He got so good, he became a successful bluegrass musician. Fame and fortune were no longer strangers to him.

His brother went to school, where he met his wife, became a CPA and found a modest job at a local tax firm. The locals often say he is the lesser of two weavels.

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE OF THE NBCMS!!



- On the stairs front to back:
- President Scott Degen
 - Director at Large Terry Ruddy
 - Advertising Director and Webmaster Shawn Robinson
 - Secretary Robert (Bob) Leitch
 - Newsletter Director Greg Winter
 - Front House Director Shauna Skrepyk
 - Concert Director Grant Symons
 - Treasurer Diana Stanford
 - Vice - President Carolyn Hotte
 - Workshop Director Anna Sommerville
 - Director at Large Sheila Gurba
 - Equipment Director Jason Baldwin
 - Membership Director Kinley Miller
 - missing: Library Director Mark McHale

MESSAGE FROM EL PRESIDENTE



Hi everyone, I'm Scott Degen, the new president of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. First of all, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to outgoing president Ron Mercer. Ron has served as president of the club since 2012 and has left some left some big shoes to fill! For those of you who don't know me, I've been involved with

the NBCMS since 2003 and I've made many wonderful friends here over the years. I have a profound love of bluegrass music, in particular I like studying the history behind it as well as listening to masters of the genre. I play a variety of instruments such as guitar, mandolin, bass and fiddle and I enjoy singing as well.

We have a wonderful Board this year and I look forward to working together with them in 2019!

A symphony orchestra was performing "Beethoven's Ninth". In the piece, there's a long passage, (about 20 minutes) during which the bass violinists have nothing to do. Rather than sitting around-looking stupid, a few A bassists decided to sneak-off to the tavern next door for a couple beers. After slamming several beers in quick succession, one of them looked at his watch and said, "Hey! We gotta GO!" "No rush, really," said another, "I tied the last few pages of the conductor's score together with string, just in case we needed more time. It'll take him a few minutes to get it untangled." After slamming another beer, they staggered back to the concert hall and quietly took their seats. About this time, an audience member nudged her husband, noting that the conductor seemed a bit on-edge. "Of course he's stressed, don't you see... It's the bottom of the Ninth, The score is tied, AND the bassists are loaded."

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR...

Papa (Granddad) to Jonas, Finley and Leo



Music lover, skier, hiker, cottager, life lover

Husband to singer and aspiring bass player Maureen

Father to daughter Carly (and Adam) and son Rob (and Julia)

Dog lover and Malamute addict, currently providing a loving home for Teka

Retired Firefighter and Musician -plays guitar and piano

New NBCMS Newsletter Editor

I'm newish to the NBCMS club and am keen to grow my skills and friendships within this amazing musical community. I've been welcomed to Bluegrass 101, to the 'Jam' (known to some in Bluegrass 101 as the 'Big Jam', to Bluegrass 201, and to the Executive Board. I find my position to provide an exciting opportunity to gain greater insights to the music, the community, the Club, the performers and the Festivals and Workshops. I'm a good communicator and sharer. I welcome your feedback and encouragement, your photos and stories, and suggestions for this newsletter that we all enjoy. Please feel free to call (780)904-6974 or e-mail me through the club website or my personal e-mail winski.greg.winter@gmail.com

JOHN LOWELL TRIO

We thank our musical partner the Uptown Folk Club for kindly organizing a Bluegrass night that won't be soon forgotten. On April 5th at the Norwood Legion a privileged house enjoyed a virtuosic performance by John Lowell accompanied by two young fellows that are well known around these parts; Miles Zurawell on Dobro and Nico Humby on Bass Fiddle and Mandolin.

John is a great storyteller. Within the lyrics of his songs you may find yourself wandering in the mountains, along the rivers and through the backwoods... occasionally in the rivers! And there you are - in the middle of the story within the song. The ability to carry the listener into each tale is a true skill of John's. Listeners beware! John has a reputation for death as a frequent theme within his songs...

John has been dubbed the 'quadruple threat' of flat pickers... he can pick, sing and write songs AND he teaches! Bands in John's past include Medicine Wheel, Wheel Hoss Deep River that became Kane's River (a must to discover if you haven't already), The Loose Ties, The Growling Old Men, The Lone Mountain Trio, and the John Lowell Band. John has several CD's available

John Lowell started learning to play guitar as he crept into his sister's room at the age of 12 to play her guitar. He discovered Bluegrass music in high school through a friend. John is a talented multi genre acoustic artist. He's a down to earth fellow who has raised a family in the Bozeman area. John's been a working musician for over 35 years. He also works for Gibson Guitars as a purchasing agent - procuring the woods that make their fine instruments. John has been on the cover of Flatpicking Guitar Magazine and Bluegrass Unlimited magazine. He received the coveted Best Musician in Bozeman award from Music Villa. His solo CD 'I Am Going To The West' is simply just John. His up and coming collaborative work 'This

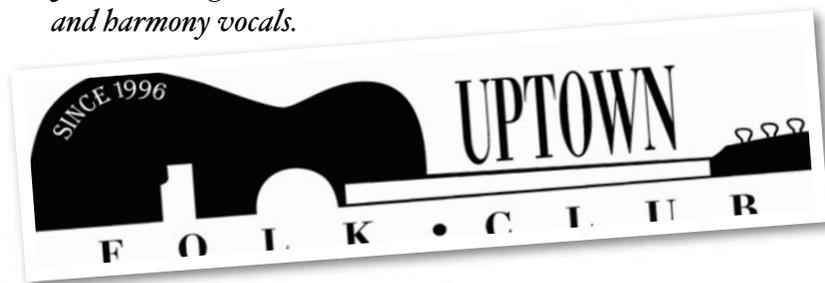
Long Stretch Of Gravel - John Lowell and Friends' promises to be a must have work that brings together top musicians from John's community. The disk is due to be out this year! Check out John's website <https://johnlowell.com/#home-section>

Miles Zurawell was raised in smalltown Alberta. He was immersed in a wide range of music from an early age. Miles is a pianist and self-taught guitarist. He fell in love with Bluegrass after being inspired to pick up the banjo by a University Biology Professor. Soon after, he also picked up the resonator guitar (Dobro). In 2018 after leaving his permanent biologist job with the government he has focussed intensely on learning the Dobro. Miles is advancing his

through his website and the Kane's River CD 'Same River Twice' is available through Apple Music and Spotify.



(left to right) Nico Humby bass fiddle and harmony vocals, John Lowell guitar and lead vocals, Miles Zurawell Dobro and harmony vocals.



technical skills and maintains an eclectic taste in music. Miles currently performs with the Nomad Jones band and he recently relocated from Edmonton to Victoria, B.C. Miles offers lessons via video messaging apps such as Skype, Facetime, Facebook Messenger etc to offer instruction in banjo, Dobro and guitar. Check out Mile's website <https://www.mileszurawell.com/>

Nico Humby is an energetic and enthusiastic Albertan whose spirit comes through into his bass playing and singing in a multitude of genres including R&B, Funk, Swing, Folk, Bluegrass and Classic Country. Nico can bring his bass to drive the rhythm of the song and to work a clearly articulated bass solo when given the opportunity to do so. Nico opened Sarah Hogan (see next page)

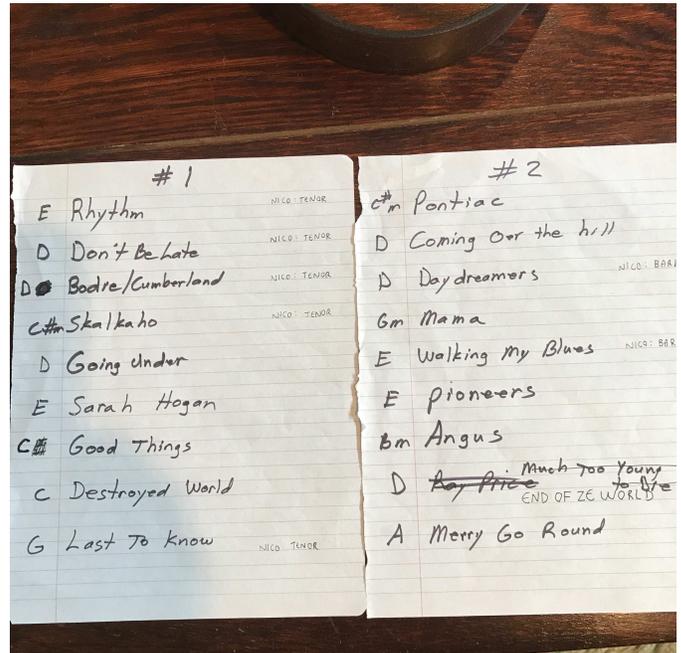
JOHN LOWELL TRIO

Nico Humby (continued) with incredibly rich bass tones bowed out of his bass fiddle... WOW! Nico has been recently touring with both the Greg Blake Band and Jeff Scroggins & Colorado. Nico also has his Bachelor of Design in Photography from the Alberta College of Art & Design and is promoting musician portraits and design work within his community. Checkout Nico's website <http://www.nicohumby.com/>



My favourite songs of the night: Skalkaho Road, Sarah Hogan, Mama Don't Like It When I Come Home Late, Tribute to Billy Cardeen, Angus

MacKenzie, and End of the World by Bashful Brother Oswald.



Set list from the John Lowell Trio's performance



CKUA's The Bluegrass Hour -hosted by our very own Darcy Whiteside plays a classic mix of Bluegrass and Old Time music spanning approximately 60 years of the genres. "I try to introduce bands from all over the world... stuff you've never heard before but hopefully will enjoy."

Darcy brings a variety of music coupled with an insightful focus on some of the history of this passion inspiring music.

The Bluegrass Hour can be heard Sundays 12 - 1 p.m. and Mondays 4 - 5 a.m. at 94.9 in Edmonton and area.

Calgary 93.7

Red Deer 107.7

Edson 103.7 Hinton 102.5

Whitecourt 107.1 Grande Prairie 100.9 Spirit River 99.5

Peace River 96.9

Athabasca 98.3 Fort McMurray 96.7 Lloydminster 97.5

Canmore Bow Valley 104.3

Drumheller Hanna 91.3 Medicine Hat 97.3 Lethbridge 99.3

JAMMING... OUR CLUB'S PAST AND FUTURE



Above: *the jamming circle brings smiles, focus, artistic expression and encourages all ages to bring their musical contributions!*

Below: *Those smiles say it all... Kayla Hotte and Alfie Mybre*

photos by Marc Whittington



Bluegrass is a genre in which most of the fans are also musicians. Jamming circles are a common theme in Bluegrass, Old Time, and Folk Music. Jamming circles form at all Festivals and Workshops after the headliners are done their parts. These circles are why Bluegrass musicians have such depth of skill. Everybody starts somewhere!

Jamming circles are the impromptu 'kitchens' where we have the opportunity for young and old, new and veteran musicians to come together to drive the rhythmic beat of tune after tune. Most circles can handle multiple instruments of the same type, however, only one bass fiddle per circle is a rule.

Lead singers can be melodic storytellers through the verses and choruses. Tenor and baritone (with an occasional bass) harmony voices join the lead to enrich the vocal sound through each chorus. Each musician has the opportunity to add their own tasteful melodic solo following each chorus (except the last!) or decline. Lead instrumental breaks are generally played clockwise within the circle.

Jamming circles are the fundamental growth opportunities we may each participate in that allow us to grow our own skills and to help others to do the same. They're a place where we can play with others in real time and while keeping time! They're a place where we can explore the 'fit' of our melodic interpretations through lead solo playing.

For newer musicians, this is a great place to build one's repertoire through discovery as each person coming to the circle gets the opportunity to add and lead the arrangement / performance of their song in the night's 'set list' so to speak.

Jamming circles welcome all comers! Jamming circles should be of a size that allows for each participant to play a lead break within the melody if they so choose... thus, a very big circle may become challenging or even dysfunctional.

New participants are encouraged to join the circle and if they are able to participate in all aspects of a song, to do so with joy and artistic expression. If the song is new or unknown, to participate quietly as one discovers the rhythmic chord progression and the melody of the tune.

Sitting beside a more experienced player on the same instrument is an opportunity for skill growth and to discover advanced lead playing. Sitting outside the circle with one's instrument may provide a confidence building opportunity to discover a song's chord progressions and melody.

The Club's Jamming Songbook and the Bluegrass 101 Songbook are great starting points for building repertoire for jams. Please refer to the Club Jamming Tips handout for more information, then come join a circle and jam!

FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS... AND WORKSHOPS TOO!

This great community of people extends far and wide, hosting festivals and workshops that provide opportunities to meet new and old friends, adventure into new and old territory, share growth of knowledge and skills, and experience that deep soul caressing experience through the music we love. So many festivals and so little time... try one or all on for size!

The links for each Festival and / or workshop provide details on lineups, site facilities, registration and tickets as well as contacts for more information.

-Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival hosted by the Yukon Bluegrass folks June 7 - 9, 2019 at Haines Junction, Yukon at the edge of Kluane National Park. Three days of performances, workshops and jamming including a renowned Gospel show. Visit their website at <https://yukonbluegrass.com/about/>

-Cowichan Valley Bluegrass Festival June 14 - 16, 2019 at the Laketown Ranch Music Park just west of Lake Cowichan, British Columbia. The festival, workshops and jamming circles run Friday through Sunday. Visit their website at <https://cowichanbluegrass.com/>

-Voice Works June 24 - 29 Port Townsend, Washington. Hosted by Centrum and lead by Artistic Director Pharis Romero, Singing is a natural human effort to communicate. Singing opens doors to other cultures and languages, and it makes you feel good. The combination of world-class artists and passionate singers at Voice Works creates a rare community, safe for participants of all levels to participate. Visit their website at <https://centrum.org/voice-works-a-workshop-for-singers/>

-Blueberry Bluegrass Festival August 2 - 4, 2019 at the Stony Plain Rodeo Grounds. This 3 day festival is 'not to be missed' and includes the festival, workshops, jamming circles, dances, and the Pioneer Museum. Visit their website at <https://blueberrybluegrass.com/>

-Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Festival August 16 - 18, 2019 at Ness Creek Site, Big River, Saskatchewan. This festival is preceded by a music camp August 12 - 16, 2019. For tickets and / or information please go to www.northernlightsbluegrass.ca

-Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival hosted by the Foothills Bluegrass Music Society August 16 - 19, 2019 at Nanton, Alberta. Come join the fun and hear some great Bluegrass music featuring acts from the US and Canada, including a few of our amazing local bands. Visit their website at <https://foothillsbluegrass.com/shady-grove>

-NimbleFingers Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Workshops and Festival at the Sorrento Centre, British Columbia. This event has been around for a long time and was previously known as the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop. Directors Julie Kerr and Craig Korth lead the event which consists of 2 weeklong workshops that are separated by a Festival. Week 1 is August 18 - 23, Week 2 is August 25 - 30 with the Festival in between on Saturday August 24th. Visit their website at <https://www.nimblefingers.ca/>

-Our very own Fall Acoustic Music Workshop at the beautiful and comfortable Camp Health Hope Happiness on the shore of Lake Isle west of Edmonton. This year's dates and lineup of excellent Instructors / Facilitators is yet to be announced. You can expect more jamming, learning and FUN! Simply check in with the club website and look for more information in future newsletters. Visit the club website at <https://www.bluegrassnorth.com/>

Enjoy your festival and workshop experiences, they will bring smiles to your faces and make your summer memories strong and long!



THE PULSE...



above: Darcy and Jim leading Bluegrass 101!

The hours for Bluegrass 101 and the open Jam that follows have changed.

Bluegrass 101 now starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs through until 8:00 p.m. and the following jam from 8:00 til 10:00 p.m.

This great program encourages participants to play and sing with a focus on one tune per week including some history of the tune! Singing is a large part of Bluegrass 101 and Darcy really helps to coach willing participants into

their lead and harmony voices. Singing is something that really makes you feel alive and full of life!

The open Jam that follows welcomes all comers. Please see the article on Jamming and the tip sheet on Jamming Etiquette published by the Club.

Young fellow says to his Mom...

Mom when I grow up I want to be a musician... Mom says well son, you can't be both!

Don't let your kids watch symphonies on TV... there's far too much sax and violins.

Middle C, E flat, and G walk into a bar... the bartender says to E Flat sorry son, we don't serve minors here!

How many bass players does it take to change a light bulb? Just 6... one to change the bulb and 5 to fight off the lead guitar players that want to hog the light!

COMMUNITY EVENTS...

Acoustic Music Open Mics and Jams:

- open mic hosted by Marc Ladouceur at Sherbrooke Pub 11827 - St Albert Trail every Tuesday night from 7:00 to 10:00
- open mic hosted by Alex Boudreau at Second Cup 8902 - 149 Street NW Wednesday evenings
- Allendale Community League jam Sunday May 5th

The Local Group Riverdale Rinkhouse April 29th -named after the cluster of galaxies containing the Milky Way, the Local Group plays music of astronomical proportions. This Saskatoon group puts their own unique spin on bluegrass, celtic, classic country, and traditional Canadian music. Featuring hot banjo and guitar picking, tight harmonies, and a mixed bag of instruments including double bass, fiddle, harmonica, penny whistle and triangle, their show will take you out of this world on a rocket fueled by pure folk music.

In the short time since the Local Group began playing together, they have performed everywhere from the Ness Creek Music Festival and Northern Lights Bluegrass Festival, to prestigious venues in Saskatoon including TCU Place and the Bassment.

If you would like to promote an event in the Newsletter, please e-mail Greg at winski.greg.winter@gmail.com with a description of the event, the date and location.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...



Malcolm B. Wiseman was born on May 23, 1925 and passed on February 24, 2019. He was an early survivor of Polio and went on to a lifelong career in the music industry. He was known as “The Voice with a Heart”.

As a young child Mac listened to the Jimmy Rogers radio program live broadcasts in the late 1920's. He experienced the birth of Bluegrass Music, he has performed with the legends of both Country and Bluegrass and he has over 60 albums to his recording credit. In 2008 Mac received the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Mac began playing bass for Molly O'Day and the Cumberland Mountain Folks based out of Knoxville, Tennessee and recorded in their first sessions with Columbia. He moved on to a band named Bristol in 1948 which was the early Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs band that became the Foggy Mountain Boys. While performing on their radio show, Mac was enticed to join the Blue Grass Boys by Bill Monroe. This caused Lester Flatt some stress but Mac went on to record as lead vocalist with Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys on “Travelling This Lonesome Road” and “Can't You Hear Me Calling”. Mac, the consummate gentleman, would also record with former bandmate Lester Flatt on three future recordings and with the Osborne Brothers as well.

Despite the relationships and the recording credits he had built, Mac was experiencing difficulty in parlaying all that into a Nashville recording contract. So he resumed his career in radio and became host on the Louisiana Hayride at KWKH in

Shreveport, Louisiana. This was a country radio program that was second only to the Grand 'Ol Opry for listeners. Meanwhile, in 1951, the Dot label recorded his first single “Tis Sweet To Be Remembered” which became popular locally and Mac's lifelong theme.

Wiseman saw continuing solo success with “The Ballad of Davy Crockett,” “Shackles & Chains,” “I'll Be All Smiles Tonight,” “Love Letters in the Sand” and “Jimmy Brown the Newsboy,” which marked his highest charting single at No. 5 in 1959.

Rock and Roll music displaced fans from both the Country and Bluegrass music genres. Mac tried to avoid the bluegrass stereotype that many country radio stations had come to reject. This music that Mac was creating caused him to develop a large following from the Folk Music community and would result in him becoming a headliner with Folk and with the Bluegrass festivals that were on the rise.

Mac was a founding member of the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1958 and then went on to become a co-founder of the International Bluegrass Music Association in 1986.

Mac went on to develop his own Wise record label and mail-order record business, he started the festival at Renfro Valley, Kentucky. He became the Secretary of the Nashville local of the American Federation of Musicians.

Mac has become a spokesperson for the Bluegrass Music industry as he was the narrator for the video series “Grassroots to Bluegrass” and the movie “High Lonesome: The Story of Bluegrass”.

Mac is a legend in our musical community and has left his musical marks on the history of our music. He was inducted into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame.

Mac's nature as an innovator lead him to record a Bluegrass / Hip-Hop fusion with the Groove Grass Boyz and an album of duets with John Prine.

Mac's most recent album *I Sang the Song (Life of the Voice with a Heart)* was recorded in 2017 on the Mountain Fever Records label with contributions from John Prine, Alison Krauss, Sierra Dawn Hull, Junior Sisk, Shawn Camp and Andrea Zonn.

He was a Father of five children.

article assembled with credit to information from Billboard , Wikipedia, Country Music Hall of Fame and Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame.

FRIENDS OF BLUEGRASS



Myhre's Music

The NBCMS members enjoy a special and long standing relationship with a local music store... A cornerstone of acoustic and roots music in Edmonton... a family owned and operated store with family values that has served the Edmonton area since 1967! Myhre's Music has been a great supporter and promoter of the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society, for which we say THANKS! Staff in the photo are left to right: Lydia Myhre, Catherine Robertson fiddle and violin luthier, daughter Haley, Byron Myhre, Alfie Myhre, Bob Potoniec, missing Thomas Slaymaker guitar luthier, George Back, Marc Ladouceur, son Tanner Myhre.

Pleasantview Hall Closure

On Wednesday April 17, 2019 an e-mail was sent out late in the day to indicate Pleasantview Hall would be closed that evening and that our Jams would be cancelled.

This was due to the construction situation and it's affect on access and egress from the Hall. Safety issues that threaten our use of the Hall must be respected. Did you receive timely notification of the closure? Do you have any suggestions on a means of notification that would effectively communicate with all so that we can avoid making a trip to the Hall to find that out?

Classified Ads -if you have an item you'd like to publish in the newsletter, please let Greg know by e-mail through the website or winski.greg.winter@gmail.com *each issue requires confirmation of your desire to re-publish your item.*



How are a lawsuit and an accordion alike? Everyone's happy when the case is closed!

What's the difference between a large pizza and a Bluegrass musician? A large pizza can feed a family of four...

What's the difference between a banjo and a trampoline? People take their shoes off to jump on a trampoline!

What's the definition of perfect pitch? When you throw a banjo in the dumpster and it hits an accordion.

Contributors



MARC LADOUCEUR
River City Playboys interview



ANNA SOMERVILLE
festivals article

ERNA DOMINEY, MARK WHITTINGTON, GRANT SYMONS
photos and content



CAROLYN HOTTE
Importance of Jamming...