

Po' Ramblin' Boys



Grammy Sendoff Show at Parkview Community Hall

The Po' Ramblin' Boys welcomed us to an electrifying performance of traditional Bluegrass music on Friday January 24th at the Parkview Community Hall. Over 200 people were in attendance (my estimate was closer to 300!) for the second of two sold out gigs in Alberta. Then they were off to California for the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards celebration at the Staples Centre in downtown Los Angeles just two days later on the 26th of January.



Po' Ramblin' Boys -l to r newest member Laura Orshaw, Jereme Brown, Jasper Lorentzen, C.J. Lewandowski, Josh Rinkle -photo credit to Mark Whittington thanks!

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



The energy that the band brought to the stage was palpable. They came in hot after a sold out show at the Irish Cultural Centre in Calgary. That night at the Parkview Community Hall they unleashed 2 sets of power drivin' Bluegrass gems that ranged from the old and rare “New Train South” from their Toil Trouble and Tears album to “Drive Myself to Drinkin’ ” written for them by Kody Norris and recorded on their 2016 disc ‘Back to the Mountains’.

The Po' Ramblin' Boys strive to capture the energy and performance quality from Bluegrass pioneers Bill Monroe and Ralph Stanley. Sitting in the audience and enjoying the show transports one into a timeless dimension of old and new tunes that are delivered with careful attention to the details of performance and respect for those pioneers and the pioneering spirit.

They were immediately at ease with the crowd and joking with the EmCee for the bit of ribbing they took for having no Dobro in the band with the response “We love the Dobro! They help keep our homes warm in the winter!” The audience had many opportunities to enjoy the humour including the playful exchange between C.J. and Laura as she was having outfit challenges and C.J. pointed out that one would expect those sorts of challenges when one wears a table cloth! And Laura pointed out that she had no idea what she was doing when she joined the band... keeping one man happy is a life's work, but 4... IMPOSSIBLE!

The evening was coming to a close faster than they sold out of their CDs it seemed. The crowd wanted more and at the end, they played a floor stomping encore to the Bluegrass standard “Long Journey Home”. For the folks attending, the show was even more special as we got to share our hopes and best wishes to the band for an amazing Grammy experience! *-newsletter written and prepared by Greg Winter with the help of many others*



*Po' Ramblin' Boys are:
 Laura Orshaw fiddle
 Jereme Brown banjo
 C.J. Lewandowski
 mandolin
 Jasper Lorentzen bass
 Josh Rinkle guitar
 -photo credits Frank
 Gasparik "thanks so much!"*

The Po' Ramblin' Boys are an exciting traditional Bluegrass act that came together around 2014 when C.J. Lewandowski had been filling in for no show groups that were supposed to provide musical entertainment for visitors to the Ole Smoky Moonshine Distillery in Sevierville, Tennessee where he had been working. The company was notably impressed with C.J. and invited him to put together a band to perform for those gigs. He contacted his friends Jereme Brown -a banjo playing welder, and Josh Rinkle -a guitar playing sign company manager. They teamed up with 'Tasting Room' Ole Smoky employee Jasper Lorentzen who turned out to be the perfect bass player! This band has been busy and has been on a bit of a magical ride as the world is discovering their talent. The band was signed with Randm Records in 2015 and released their debut



disc 'Back to the Mountains' in 2016. Billy Hurt provided his roots fiddle magic on that disc. They were featured on a special showcase stage at the 2017 IBMA Momentum Awards. They won the 2018 IBMA New Artist of the Year Award. They signed a new recording deal with Rounder Records in June of 2018 and, with the blessing of Randm Records (a real obvious bit of magic). Then in July of 2018 they released their Gospel disc 'God's Love is So Divine'. Their newest disc Toil, Tears and Trouble was released in 2019 and won them a nomination for the 2020 Grammy Awards! Laura Orshaw provided her fiddle magic on that disc and accepted the band's invitation to join them in 2019.



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BRING SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS...



Putting on a concert is pretty straight forward, you need a venue, you need an act, and you need some time to promote the event and sell out all tickets if possible. The acts come in price ranges, it makes sense that Joe Mullins and the Radio City Ramblers are priced higher than some of the newer and less established acts.

Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society is one of many club style associations that each try to offer opportunities to enjoy musical exposure to bands that each bring their own unique performance qualities and ‘personalities’ to the stage. While Northern Bluegrass is in the non-profit business of raising monies and then having to make certain that they spend their monies, it’s nearly impossible for a small club to bring in a big name act then sell out a small venue at very affordable ticket prices and remain within their financial means.

Over long periods of chatting amongst friends, notions of bringing bands such as the Po’Ramblin’ Boys to Edmonton would come up. Friends that are involved in the different Bluegrass clubs and with Blueberry knew that they could work together; to

collaborate. The intention being that each group could realize a greater opportunity to host an event with shared risk and shared losses to ensure that no club is hurt too badly as a host.

The NBCMS collaborated with the Uptown Folk Club, Foothills Bluegrass Music Society, and the Blueberry Bluegrass Association to bring the Po’ Ramblin’ Boys to Alberta. Each group brought something and shared the glory.

This is a win for each club and for folks that are newly discovering great music and great clubs thanks to a little friendly club collaboration. Trust is the key element and must be nurtured.

The very first collaboration of these 3 groups brought us the tremendously successful sold out show provided by The Po’ Ramblin’ Boys which leads me to believe this future is very bright!

From a financial perspective, sharing the loss of hosting such a great show ensures that the size of those losses are acceptable within the financial structure of each group. This ensures that we are able to survive into the future and host again!

On behalf of the NBCMS club membership I would like to extend a hearty thank you and congratulations to Carolyn, Steve, Eric and Anna, along with a question... “What’s next?” or as young Oliver Twist in the Charles Dickens tale pleaded “Please Sir may I have some more”...



FESTIVAL SEASON FAST APPROACHES!

WESTERN CANADIAN BLUEGRASS

KLUANE MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
June 12 – 14, Haines Junction, Yukon

COWICHAN VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
June 19 – 21, Lake Cowichan, British Columbia

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
July 31 – August 2, Stony Plain, Alberta

SHADY GROVE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
August 13 – 16, Sundre, Alberta

NORTHERN LIGHTS BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
August 14 – 16, Ness Creek, Saskatchewan

NIMBLEFINGERS FESTIVAL
August 22, Sorrento, British Columbia



Wouldn't it be nice to say that collaboration is the flavour of the day. Think of our governments all working together to pursue best outcomes for all rather than trying to ensure best outcomes for one (which is usually 'me' centred).

Here's an exciting development! The Festival organizers and Bluegrass and Old Time clubs across western Canada are talking about a new group called the Western Canadian Bluegrass Association.

I'm anxious to provide more details on this as I believe that well intentioned collaboration is the best model and perhaps the only model that will truly preserve the hard work of many before us as the builders of our communities. You can count on more information coming as I discover more.

Festival season this year (as always) kicks off with the Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival at Haines Junction in the Yukon Territory from June 12 - 14th. Following that, there is enough travelling time for one to make The Cowichan Valley Bluegrass and Old Time Festival June 19 - 21st.

July is family month, so if you are chomping at the bit for the next Bluegrass Festival, you'll just

have to find yourself in the moment throughout July as best you can.

August rolls out the most intense Bluegrass month on our calendar, kicking off with The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival at Stony Plain, Alberta on the August long weekend -July 31 through August 2nd.

Following Blueberry there's a short break then we're hit with a tough choice The Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival in Sundre, Alberta on August 13 - 16th or the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Festival at Ness Creek, Saskatchewan on August 14 - 16th.

NimbleFingers closes out August with 2 back to back weeks of Instructional Workshops separated by a Festival that brings all of the Instructors and their bands to perform at the Sorrento Centre in Sorrento, British Columbia.

Bluegrass, Old Time, and an occasional splash of Country Swing, and vintage Country Music are the standard fare for these Festivals. Each festival also provides opportunities for the performers to share some time and insights from their experiences with their musical fans in workshop style settings.

KLUANE MOUNTAIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - JUNE 12 - 14, 2020



The Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival is the Yukon's premiere Bluegrass event and is held in Haines Junction June 12 - 14th, 2020. The featured acts are:

- Sideline**
- Mile Twelve**
- Seth Mulder & Midnight Run**
- The Slovan Ramblers**



Haines Junction is located 155 kilometers west of Whitehorse on the Haines Highway at the junction with the Alaska Highway. You can drive there via either route. International flights arrive at the Whitehorse Airport. Car and RV rentals are available and there's plenty of accommodations and camping at Whitehorse. There are RV and tent campgrounds, cabins, lodges and inns in and around Haines Junction. There's a twice a week shuttle (Sunday and Wednesday) from Haines, Alaska.

Haines Junction lies in the true heart of Canada's arctic mountain wilderness with the Tatshenini-Alsek Provincial Park, and Kluane National Park and Reserve located immediately west of town.

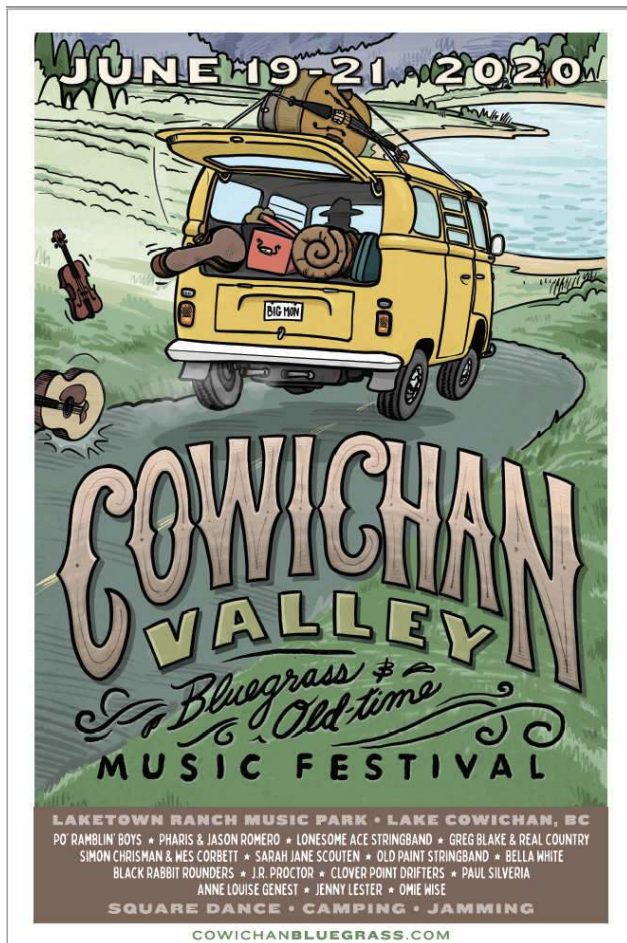
There's more things to do in this area and one could easily spend an entire vacation wandering the paths of this backwoods alpine paradise. Fishing, photography, ski touring, hiking, backpacking, and for one very special weekend in June -an incredibly rich Bluegrass Festival make Haines Junction a desirable place to visit.



The Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival roster for local / regional acts is yet to be finalized. Checkout the FAQ section of their website:

<https://yukonbluegrass.com/faq>

where you'll find additional information on accommodations and camping availability, tickets, food and beverage, and pets. There are links to purchase tickets from that page as well.

COWICHAN VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME FESTIVAL - JUNE 19 - 21, 2020

COWICHAN VALLEY

Bluegrass & Old-time

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Full Lineup

Save 30% by March 1

NBCMS Members save 20% using discount code 'NBCMS'

The Po' Ramblin' Boys -2019 Grammy nominee for Best Bluegrass Album

Pharis & Jason Romero -BC's acclaimed Juno winning artists

The Lonesome Ace Stringband -Canada's leading Bluegrass / Old-Time trio

Greg Blake & Real Country -Award winning guitarist and vocalist with his new band

Wes Corbett & Simon Chrisman -The Sam Bush / Molly Tuttle banjo player with a virtuoso on hammer dulcimer

Old Paint -Victoria's favourite acoustic duo backed by a full band

Sarah Jane Scouten -BC's international acoustic singer / songwriter

The Bella White Band -Canada's hottest emerging Bluegrass star

Black Rabbit Rounders -Driving Old-Time band from Vancouver Island

The J.R. Proctor Trio -BC acoustic singer / songwriter extraordinaire

Paul Silveria / Anne Louise Genest -BC's best square dance callers

Clover Point Drifters -BC's legendary Bluegrassers celebrating their 20th year

Jenny Lester -BC's beloved Bluegrass veteran is our "Festival Jambassador"

Omie Wise -Victoria's Queens of Harmony

Youths 17 and under free with an adult

NBCMS members receive 30% off if booked before March 1. Use discount code 'NBCMS' to receive a continuing 20% discount on weekend passes after March 1.

Weekend passes:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4453520>

Camping passes:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4456071>

The Festival is held at the 'Laketown Ranch' property located 3.8 km west of the Cowichan Valley Highway on Youbou Road.

I asked about the Festival policy on dogs and would like to pass along that while the Festival is not being promoted as 'dog friendly' they are approving of dogs that are kept on leash outside of the performance area.

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2020



budgeting, fundraising, procuring the talent, booking support arrangements etc, etc, etc.

This will be the 35th anniversary of The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival. Over that time, it has become Canada's biggest Bluegrass Festival and achieved the 2019 IBMA Event of the Year, as well as 2018 ACE Award of Creative Excellence from the Stony Plain & District Chamber of Commerce. This Festival has hosted the very best in Bluegrass, Old-Tyme, and Country Swing entertainers.

The Festival is held at Heritage Park in Stony Plain Alberta. Heritage Park is located south of Highway 16A and west of Secondary Highway 779.

Aerial view of Heritage Park:



Like all festivals, the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival is a spontaneous gathering of folks that find common joy in sharing good music and community with each other. There are many aspects to Festival life when one thinks of the accommodations, the venue, the food, the marketplace, the performers and the shows, meeting folks and sharing opinions and insights, the social scene, the 'other things to do', the weather, the jamming... all of these things combine in their ways to create this incredibly memorable experience that drives us to hit the repeat button on the old Ground Hog Day machine.

The very real reason that we have this opportunity is thanks to all of the organizers and volunteers that dedicate themselves to making this experience incredible in ways such as planning and

With 160 onsite RV camping sites and plus additional tent sites, along with the many neighbouring hotel style lodgings such as the Travelodge in Stony Plain one will have several choices for accommodations for the weekend.

There are plenty of jamming opportunities from those lead by performers to impromptu jams spread from one end of the camping area to the other, one can jump into as many as one might manage to engage in over the weekend. There are jamming tents and RV jams where you'll find old and new friends that welcome roaming jammers to join in.

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2020

2020 Blueberry Bluegrass Festival Lineup



If you log onto the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival website and go to the Complete Lineup at:

<https://blueberrybluegrass.com/performers>

you can click on any performer photo and see a bit more information about each band.

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL -JULY 31 - AUGUST 2, 2020



There's a dance on Friday and Saturday night with a different band each night. You'll get a chance to 2 step out in style!

There are workshops in which performers share their tips and tricks for growing skills and jamming. You will find fiddle and ukelele workshops, guitar, banjer, and bass workshops too.

The Beer Gardens is located close to the performance area with refreshments to help you enjoy the summer heat and the entertainment.

A nice variety of food trucks located to the rear of the performance area and close to the Beer Gardens to satisfy your food cravings when you decide it's time.

In the centre of the marketplace (located inside the pavillion), you fill find an area that's set aside for performers to meet and greet their fans. There are CD's, albums, t-shirts, stickers and plenty of great conversations waiting to be had with your favourite stars and Bluegrass heroes!



The marketplace is a great place to wander and shop. There's a nice assortment of vendors; from wood carvers to potters and jewellery makers. You'll find guitar builders and birdhouses, an ice cream vendor and the best cup of coffee around!

In the marketplace you'll also find a very well stocked booth that's occupied by the friendly staff from Myhre's Music. These folks can help you to find your next great instrument and make your current one nicer to play. You'll find everything from strings to tuners to t-shirts and mugs. Check out Myhre's Music while you're there and remember that club members qualify for a discount on Myhre's purchases.

For those that get there early, there's a welcome BBQ and concert on Thursday night featuring the Bix Mix Boys and the River City Playboys.

One fine treat while you're at Blueberry is a tour through the Pioneer Museum. You'll be transported back in time as you check out the vintage buildings, machines and exhibits that together re-produce the Stony Plain Pioneer and Homesteader setting from over a century ago. There are fine snacks to be had at the Tea House, and a pancake breakfast every morning too!

The Pioneer Museum is also the setting for many of the Workshops and some jams as well.



The Blacksmith shop, the livery, the sawmill, Warden School and the many period houses are must sees!

BLUEBERRY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



The Blueberry Bluegrass Festival Sponsors... for whom we say "thanks!"



There's something for everybody. The Petting Zoo, the Percussion Parade, build a mop pony, paint a birdhouse, strum a ukelele and more!



Thanks to all of the fine folks represented by the logos above, with these partnerships Blueberry has established solid and long standing support from the Business Community and Government. The primary means of gaining this support is the community building effort fostered by the organizers and supporters to continue the legacy of the Festival and it's positive impact on the community that exists around the Festival.

Mark your calendars, get your tickets and book your camping spots then relax and enjoy the great music and jamming and everything else that the Festival has to offer over the weekend.

Check the Blueberry Bluegrass Festival website for tickets, camping passes and more information:

<https://blueberrybluegrass.com/#home1-section>

SHADY GROVE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL - AUGUST 13 - 16, 2020



Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival

Full Lineup

Kathy Kallick Band

Unspoken Tradition

FY5

Andrew Collins Trio

Calvin Vollrath

Back Spin

The Bix Mix Boys

The Doggone Brothers

The 30th annual Shady Grove Bluegrass Festival will run August 13 - 16th, 2020 and be held in a new location at the Sundre Rodeo Grounds in the foothills of Sundre, Alberta.

Sundre is the gateway to mountain adventure with high variety of recreational activities in the area. The town is located west of Olds on Highway 27. There's around 4000 campsites in the area, lots of motel and hotel style accommodations as well as Bed & Breakfasts too. You can dry camp at the Rodeo Grounds for \$40 for the weekend.

The Festival opens at noon on Friday August 13th and runs right on through til Sunday afternoon.

This years event brings opportunities to participate in open mics, Bluegrass karaoke, jam sessions and youth showcases.



Shady Grove is a family friendly Festival with lots of activities for the all of the family members and jams that welcome younger members too.

Shady Grove organizers promote welcoming jam opportunities for all skill levels. They also promote fun, friendly and respectful jam etiquette.

Check out their website for more information and tickets:

<https://foothillsbluegrass.com/shady-grove/tickets>

NORTHERN LIGHTS BLUEGRASS AND OLD TYME FESTIVAL -AUGUST 14 - 16, 2020



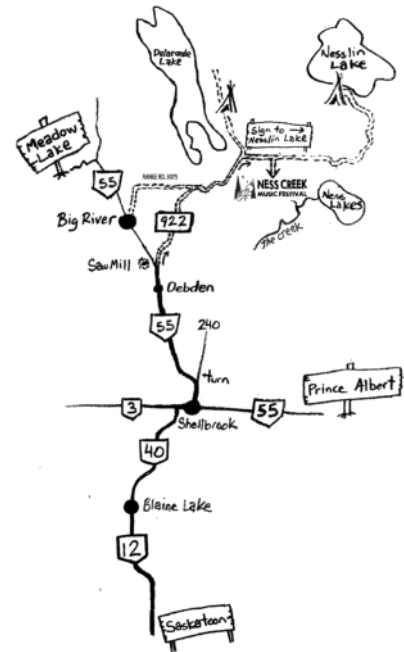
NORTHERN LIGHTS
BLUEGRASS AND OLD TYME

MUSIC CAMP AUG 10 - 14
MUSIC FESTIVAL AUG 14 - 16
AT THE NESS CREEK SITE - BIG RIVER, SK

DAYTIME WORKSHOPS	SUNDAY MORNING GOSPEL JAM	PICKIN' SHACK
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ALEX LEACH BAND | HOGSLOP STRING BAND
FIVE MILE MOUNTAIN ROAD | SAMMY & NADINE SMITH AND STAM | STANLEY COUNTY CUT-UPS
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WWW.NORTHERNLIGHTSBLUEGRASS.CA

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Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old-Tyme Festival Full Lineup

- Alex Leach Band**
- Hogslop String Band**
- Five Mile Mountain Road**
- Sammy & Nadine**
- The Stanley County Cut - Ups**
- Smith & Stam**
- The Local Group**
- Jake & Ira**

The 15th annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old-Tyme Festival will run August 14 - 16th, 2020 at Ness Creek -Big River, Saskatchewan. There's plenty of accommodations in the area including campgrounds, motels, bed and breakfasts, and RV rentals. It's a beautiful location with an intimate and comfortable setting for the Music Camp August 10 - 14th, 2020 that runs right into the Festival weekend.



There's a fantastic video that describes the Music Camp featuring some of the main stage performers as Teachers. The video is at the bottom of the Music Camp page on the Northern Lights website. Check it out and get inspired to attend Northern Lights!

<http://www.northernlightsbluegrass.com/camp-2/>

NIMBLE FINGERS

WORKSHOPS AND FESTIVAL -AUGUST 16 - 28, 2020



NimbleFingers is a magical 2 week Bluegrass and Old-Time Music Camp with an amazing Festival stuck right in the middle. NimbleFingers is really the Disneyland of musical workshops for us Bluegrass and Old-Time types. There's pretty much a workshop for everyone and some choice for whom you would like to study under if you're flexible enough to attend either the first or second week session... or both!

NimbleFingers is held each year at the Sorrento Centre which is located on Passchendaele Road about 70 km east of Kamloops. While there is much to do in the area, each time I've gone I've only made it off the property for a dip in the lake and some sun on the beach, a restaurant meal, or a trip to a gift shop.

NimbleFingers is a busy and bustling music camp with workshops, pop up workshops, band scrambles, Instructor performances, Student performances, Bluegrass Karaoke, Square Dances, a Country Swing dance, jamming from one end of the location to the other and everywhere in between, facilitated jamming (with instructional leaders). You can be as busy as you want to be or opt for a nap in your comfy camp or cabin or on the beach in the sun.

There's so much detail on the sessions that I'm just going to tell you where to go to check them all out:

Week 1 August 16 - 21:

<https://www.nimblefingers.ca/2020-week-1-instructors>

Week 2 August 23 - 28:

<https://www.nimblefingers.ca/2020-week-2-instructors>

The Sorrento Centre is a place of beauty on the south shore of Shuswap Lake. It is a gathering place for all... a place of belonging. Guests visit the Sorrento Centre each year to be inspired and creative while meeting old friends and making new ones!

To register for NimbleFingers visit their website: <https://www.nimblefingers.ca/registration>



STEVE HAS PROVIDED 6 SONG DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE ON THE NBCMS WEBSITE

Steve Kaufman's Acoustic Kamps

Celebrating 25 Years!

June 14-20: Flatpicking, Old Time Fiddle, Old Time Banjo, Old Time Mandolin, Irish Fiddle, Celtic Guitar, Fingerstyle, Mt. Dulcimer, Old Time Singing, Rhythm Guitar, Hammered Dulcimer

June 21-27: Flatpicking, Bluegrass Fiddle, Bluegrass Banjo, Mandolin, Songwriting, Bass, Swing Rhythm Guitar, Bluegrass Rhythm Guitar, Ukulele, Bluegrass Vocals, Dobro™

Old Time and Traditional Week - June 14-20: Flatpicking: Steve Kaufman, Eric Thompson, Andy Hatfield;
Rhythm Guitar: Steve Kilby; **Mtn. Dulcimer:** Joe Collins; **Irish Fiddle:** Liz Carroll;
Celtic Guitar: Chris Newman; **Hammered Dulcimer:** Ted Yoder; **Old Time Mandolin:** Carl Jones;
Old Time Banjo: Rachel Eddy; **Old Time Singing:** Kari Sickenberger; **Fingerpicking:** Pat Donohue,
 Martin Grosswendt, Richard Smith; **Old Time Fiddle:** Tatiana Hargreaves, Erynn Marshall;

Bluegrass Week - June 21-27: Flatpicking: Mark Cosgrove, Rebecca Frazier, Beppe Gambetta, Mike Kaufman,
 Chris Newman, Jake Workman; **Rhythm Guitar:** Chris Jones; **Mandolin:** Carlo Aonzo, Andy Hatfield, Don Julin,
 Emory Lester, Simon Mayor, Steve Smith; **Bluegrass Banjo:** Gary Davis, Gina Furtado, Alan Munde,
 Jeff Scroggins; **Songwriting:** Donna Ulisse; **Bass:** Steve Roy, Vince Ilagan; **Bluegrass Vocals:** Sally Jones,
 Don Rigsby; **Dobro™:** Greg Booth, Jimmie Heffernan; **Ukulele:** Tony Anthonisen, Gerald Ross;
Bluegrass Fiddle: Josh Goforth, Kenny Kosek, Annie Staninec; **Swing Rhythm Guitar:** Suze Marshall

Jam Instructors Both Weeks: David Firestine and Keith Yoder; **Beginner 101:** Annie Savage

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 or write: steve@flatpik.com



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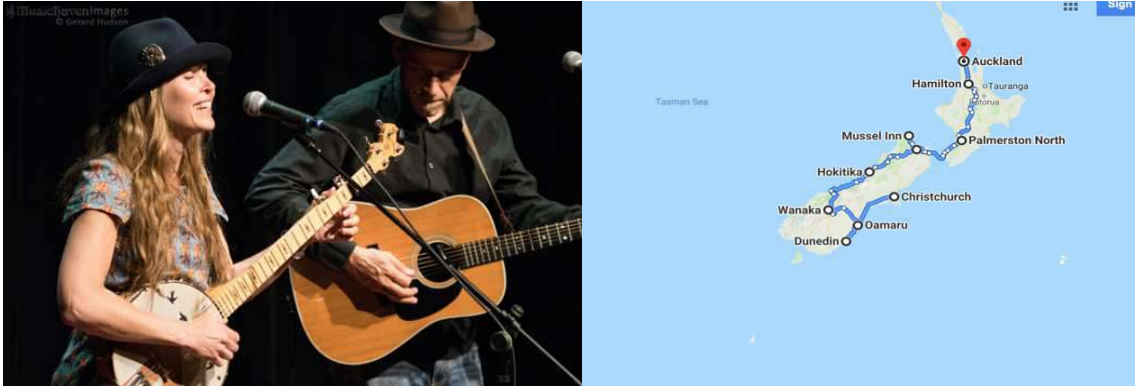
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Join Our Growing List of Sponsors....email Steve@Flatpik.com for info.



SCOTT COOK SONGS NEW ZEALAND TOUR - PAMELA JOHNSON & SCOTT COOK

Ever wonder what it would be like to just take off and join somebody you admire on a musical tour of a foreign land? Pamela Johnson sent me the following story that has some magic in it! Enjoy.



Pamela Johnson and Scott Cook on stage on the opposite side of the planet

Music cradles the good in people, all around the world. As an easy-living friend of mine used to say, “I’d rather have a pocket full of free time than a pocket full of money”. If this dusts off a little sparkle for you, here’s an idea: wherever you are in the midst of making your plans - especially if kids have grown up enough to happily land their own adult lives - take a running leap at life, leaving the comforts of a regular paycheck and go on a musical sabbatical.

In December 2019 and on into 2020, I grabbed a banjo and that is what I did, and I have no regrets; I learned a thing or two about being a touring musician, even more about similarities between musical genres, and a lot about how the world is a generous and kind place to be. My main excuse for leaving the safety of my office for a year was to finish post-secondary education by correspondence. As lucky stars would have it, I simultaneously received an offer I couldn’t refuse: to join Alberta’s roving folk minstrel, Scott Cook (nominated for English Songwriter of the Year at the 2017 Canadian Folk Music Awards), on his tour of New Zealand, with Taiwan as a lead in. I was to accompany him on his collection of songs including new ones from his soon-to-be-released album, *Tangle of Souls*. Scott is a storytelling folk roots singer, and being that I believe in him and the heart that goes into his songs, it was a snap to hop on the invite.

My experience with music and musical folks prior to this trip was through attending bluegrass and oldtime camps and festivals. I still remember the wonder of my first experience with players of various levels of skill jamming to bluegrass tunes, encouraging each other, singing shared repertoire and becoming fast friends - I was hooked. It was an exceptional thing to realize that there was a place for us adults to be playful again and create bonds through a sense of community that bluegrass and old-time music creates.

What I came to quickly realize about the vital heritage of folk circles in New Zealand, is that it works much the same: people find each other over their shared love of the music and the spirit of the message in the songs.

Our home base in Taiwan had the proportions of a shipping container and was seated on the northeast coast in a small fishing village called Fulong. From here we travelled to Hualien, Taipei, Taichung and Xinpu playing shows and reuniting with some of Scott’s pals. Getting around the island had an insider ease to it seeing as Scott speaks Mandarin having lived over there teaching English back in his 20’s. We played gigs in a cool little bar, in a funky art gallery and at an eco-retreat where guinea pigs roamed free. Taiwan has a gentle groove to it, someday I hope to return and stay long enough to recognize and befriend the locals. With any luck, my favourite furry friend, Happy, will still be hanging around looking for love and handouts.



COOK SONGS NEW ZEALAND TOUR - PAMELA JOHNSON & SCOTT COOK

Aotearoa is the Māori name for the country commonly referred to as New Zealand; after leaving Taiwan, we started our tour there, in Christchurch, and rented a Bongo campervan made by Mazda. Our little “bongolow” would be home-sweet-home for a month and take us along the coast lines and across both islands. The music started in North Taieri at a special festival called Whare Flat Folk Festival. Here we were presented with a traditional Māori custom called a haka, participated in rousing Irish / Scottish / English unaccompanied voice singing sessions each evening and, on New Year’s Eve, square danced the night away at a cèilidh.



Among other intriguing things, David Byrne talks about the interaction of venue and music in his book “How Music Works”. We played some amazing venues and there certainly is a feedback loop between the aesthetics and acoustics of a venue and the feel of the music. In Oamaru we played an exquisite art gallery called The Grainstore Gallery. The images were soft, magical and feminine and inspired an evening etched with those qualities.

Other venues included a historic theatre, Barrytown Settlers’ Halls, house concert in a stunning home, an actual bunker that is a folk club now sunk into an inactive volcano with a 360° view of Auckland, an outdoor stage surrounded by gardens at the New Plymouth, Festival of Lights, The Mussel Inn - a (delicious!) brewery and celebrated music venue that is a testament to intentional and eco-minded living, a long-running salt of the Earth festival called Te Rangi Music Festival and the grounds of the Auckland Folk Festival. The ride from each of these venues was mind-bogglingly stunning landscapes & vistas.

Given the pace at which we often had to travel, I realized that in order to cover that many gigs in a defined period of time, one must develop a fine balance of keeping a tight hold on what is within the ability to control and just let go when things go in different directions. It also teaches a harder lesson, how to say goodbye before you’re really ready to.

Bluegrass, to my way of thinking, has Hazel Dickens as one of its great matriarchs, adding songs to the repertoire about hard times and hardworking people. Folk music has champion Pete Seeger who said in 2009, “My job is to show folks there’s a lot of good music in this world, and if used right it may help to save the planet.” Pete Seeger brought to folk music rousing singalongs and, with his activism legacy, you’re bound to meet some good folk in the circles his social change ethic permeates, and good folk meet we did! Aside from getting some invaluable performance experience, this opportunity to meet new friends abroad was the most rewarding take-home. *-this sounds like a marvellous journey! Thank you so much for sharing Pamela and Scott.*



MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR:



I've mentioned in previous articles concerns for those of us that are challenged by issues with muscle tension. This is a limiting factor for performance as a musician in the way that it impedes spontaneous performance and the ability to develop skills to play at faster tempos. This is a bigger issue than I first realized and there are many factors that come to play in managing one's own situation.

I've realized one additional risk of this 'condition' in that one can become a victim of injury sustained from 'pushing through' the tension to try to achieve a goal (there are many) while playing. My most recent experience with respect to this is the development of an 'overuse' injury to my thumb. While I don't believe I was actually 'overusing', I do believe that I was not 'using' appropriately. Nerve fibers run through many muscles and along bones to deliver messages from brain to fingers and fingers to brain. Muscle tension not only produces muscles that don't function properly (try flexing your arm muscles and then try to bend your arm at the elbow), they also

create a clamping effect on the nerves which limits the transmission of those tiny electrical impulses that are supposed to activate a muscle (to flex a finger for example) or to tell the brain how much pressure is being felt on one's finger tips. I was told that I needed to stop playing guitar in late October. My recovery with my thumb injury is not as fast as I expected given my history of sustaining and recovering from injuries -I don't believe that this is the result of just getting older, but the result of having to overcome the root cause of this injury.

Nonetheless, I was not playing when the Winter Jam Camp took place, so I didn't go. I missed out on perhaps one of the best winter jams and so have no stories to tell. I did see some pictures and I recognized a lot of friends in those photos and it looked like everyone was having fun.

Physiotherapy is helping me, with needling (IMS and acupuncture -sometimes with electrical current). Exercises are helpful to maintain muscle mass and nerve function. I'm still using ice from time to time and the most recent addition to my therapy is 'nerve flossing' which was recommended following my appointment with a Doctor and Physiotherapist at the Performing Arts division of the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic. I had never heard of this before but have become a great fan of the noticeable benefits of this therapy.

NBCMS has a new board as of the AGM on February 12th. A great meeting with lots of interest and support from club members. More detail on the new board to come next newsletter. I've packed in as much as I can!

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



SADIE'S GHOST -Y'ALL!



Sadie's Ghost are (centre photo) Hannah Goa fiddle, Toby Tellier bass, Amber-Lynn Yourk mandolin

I'd like to introduce you to **Sadie's Ghost**:

An acoustic string band from Alberta, Sadie's Ghost bridges Bluegrass, Appalachian Old-Time, and Folk music traditions. Accomplished instrumentalists in their own right, Amber-Lynn Yourk (mandolin/guitar), Hannah Goa (fiddle/guitar), and Toby Tellier (bass/clawhammer banjo) bring each other to new levels. Defying musician stereotypes, they can often be found messaging each other at 630am – after having slept – to finesse arrangements, share practice tracks, or confirm gig availability. When they're up at 630am, having not slept, you know it's been a smokin' jam!

In an increasingly polarized world, their music tends to the soul, transporting audiences out of the day-to-day with rousing, rough-hewn hootenanny and delicately spun, haunting harmonies. Exploring new arrangements to time-cherished tunes, and throwing in a few sweet originals.

These ladies have known each other a long time and grooved on those opportunities they would get to play together. Discussions of 'we should form a band' would come and go until last fall Hannah needed a band and their first public performance was for the Foothills Bluegrass Music Society AGM.

"Why Sadie's Ghost? One must reference the murder ballad tradition - songs that depict murders, and usually of women. Originally written to share news, it is easy to disconnect beautiful melodies from the stories they are telling. When we hear these songs, we wonder about the Maggies, Pollys, and Sadies; what were their lives like? How similar or different to ours? If Sadie's ghost could talk, what stories would she tell? History brought us to today. It does not remain in the past. Yesterday's ghosts can be very present and we get to choose how we live with them."

"The band name is taken from the song of the same name, written by Tyler Rudolph and recorded by Viper Central. Shout out to these fine humans!" -Hannah Goa

With Amber-Lynn in Calgary and Toby and Hannah in Edmonton, the distance apart is both good and bad as each time they get together they're inspired to enter a more carefully focussed practice session with equally careful attention to the details that arise. They're currently focused on building repertoire and putting in playing time with each other, as well as enjoying the balance of "moving to the next level" together and having just so much fun where they're at.

Each one of them also brings skills in differing aspects of their life experience that benefit the band on both the music and the business side which makes them already a strong group. They find a mutual 'coolness' to building a performing band from the ground up and are finding sweet synergies through their collaboration. They have a newly launched website currently and planning to record an album in 2021. Tickets & Updates:

Website: sadiesghost.com

Facebook: facebook.com/sadiesghost

Instagram: instagram.com/sadiesghost

Bookings and info email: bookings@sadiesghost.com

Schedule:

- possibility of a March 27th date, check the website
- April 17 -House Concert in Groovenor, Edmonton
- April 18 -House Concert in Three Hills
- May Long Weekend -Festival of Stars Ponoka

THE PULSE...



The Club Jams

On Wednesday nights, Bluegrass 101 starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs through until 8:00 p.m. and an open jam follows from 8:00 til 10:00 p.m. There is also a small 201 group that follows Bluegrass 101 and are working up several tunes with the goal of taking the tunes to open jams ahead.

Bluegrass 101 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. Our fearless leader and instructor Darcy Whiteside accompanied with masterful bass rhythms and story rounder—outering by Jim Storey to bring community and skill to their students. It’s a fun and lively time and all are welcome. Singing makes you feel alive and full of life!

Hey Everyone have you heard the news?

It's March and that means it's time to renew your membership to this fine club!

Single \$15.00
Family \$25.00

Take some time in the next while to renew your membership, online is preferred at:

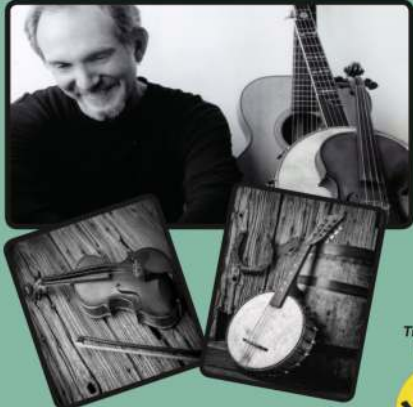
<http://www.bluegrassnorth.com/index.php/store/membership>


COMMUNITY EVENTS AND CLASSIFIED ADS:

TWO WORKSHOPS AND AN EVENING CONCERT BY BRUCE MOLSKY

TWO WORKSHOPS (15 people per workshop)
 When: Thursday, March 26, 2020
 Times: Banjo Workshop - 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
 Fiddle Workshop - Noon to 1:30 PM
 Where: 3-47 Old Arts/Convocation Hall Bldg
 Cost: \$25.00 in advance at YEG Live

EVENING CONCERT (Limited Seating)
 When: Thursday, March 26, 2020
 Time: Doors @ 7:00 pm / Concert @ 8:00 pm
 Where: CKUA Performance Space, 9804 Jasper Avenue
 Tickets: \$25.00 in advance at YEG Live



Ticketed by
YEG Live


For more information on this event, please visit Sound Studies Institute website: <http://soundstudies.ualberta.ca/>

Marc Ladouceur will be hosting **“An Evening with Marc Ladouceur”** at the Newcastle Pub and Grill located at 8170 - 50 Street in Edmonton. This will be a Bluegrass open stage event running from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on the first Monday evening of each month and the confirmed dates so far: **April 6, May 4, June 1.**

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.

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- MANAGEMENT
- MUSICIANSHIP:
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 call or e-mail Zach at 587.987.2081 or zachery94@hotmail.com

Acoustic and Electric Guitar and Mandolin lessons with Marc Ladouceur
 -all styles and levels welcome
 -contact Marc at 780.221.3464 or e-mail marcladouceur@shaw.ca

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, and son Tanner Myhre.

Classified Ads -if you have an item you'd like to publish in the newsletter, please let Greg know by e-mail to:

winski.greg.winter@gmail.com

each issue requires confirmation of your desire to re-publish your item.



From an old classic Hee Haw:

Says the feller with the scythe wearin' the biballs "You know the definition of a true music fan?"

Says the other feller with the pitch fork anda also wearin' the biballs "No, tell me what you know about a true music fan."

"Well a true music fan is one who, when he passes by and hears a beautiful blonde a-singing in the tub, presses his ear up against the keyhole! That's a true music fan for ya' right there ya'!"

Thanks Contributors!

Photos Mark Whittington, Frank Gasparik.

- Shawn Robinson for the Steve Kaufman poster and songs
- Mark McHale for the idea to run the Festivals this issue
- the World Wide Web
- Anna Sommerville for the insight on Po' Ramblin' Boys collaboration
- Carolyn Hotte for sliding me a stick full of photos
- Hannah Goa for story and pictures on Sadie's Ghost
- Pamela Johnson / Bruce Ziff for the Bruce Molsky poster and info
- Pamela Johnson for the NZ tour story and photos
- Marc Ladouceur for the info on the Bluegrass evening at the Newcastle Pub & Grill
- AND Welcome to our new Board!

Cincinnati Rag

Key of G

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Fiddle E7 E7 A7 A7

Mandolin

Guitar

TAB

TAB

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The Fiddle part is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The Mandolin and Guitar parts are in TAB format. The Mandolin part has fret numbers 3, 2, 3, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 2, 0, 2, 0, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0. The Guitar part has fret numbers 3, 2, 3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 3, 1, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 7, 0, 4, 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 3, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0, 2.

5 D7 D7 G G G G

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The Fiddle part has a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). The Mandolin and Guitar parts have fret numbers: Mandolin (0, 5, 5, 5, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 5, 2, 0, 2, 5, 3, 3, 7, 5, 3, 0, 3, 3, 5, 0, 2, 5, 0, 2, 3, 5, 4, 5) and Guitar (2, 3, 3, 3, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 3, 3, 7, 5, 3, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0, 2, 0, 3, 0, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3).

Use Em for these two measure first time through

11 E7 E7 Am Am D

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 14. The Fiddle part has a first ending (11) and a second ending (11). The Mandolin and Guitar parts have fret numbers: Mandolin (0, 0, 0, 2, 5, 2, 2, 3, 5, 3, 3, 3, 0, 2, 2, 0, 5, 4, 5, 5, 5, 0) and Guitar (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 4, 3, 3, 3, 0).

Cincinnati Rag

16

D

Em Em G G

1. 2.

16

2-0 5 2-0 5 2-0

5 4 2 0 2 4 2 0

2 5 4 5

5 4 5 2 0 5 4 2 0

2-0 3 2-0 3 0 2

0 4 2 0 2 4 2 0

2 3 2 3

0 0 2 0 3 2 0

3

Miss McLeod's Reel

Key of G

May Day

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Musical notation system 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature, key signature of one sharp (F#). Chords: G, G, G, C, D7. Includes a repeat sign at the beginning. Fingering numbers are provided below the notes.

Musical notation system 2: Treble clef. Chords: G, G, Em, G, G, D7. Fingering numbers are provided below the notes.

Musical notation system 3: Treble clef. Chords: G, G, G, C, D7. Fingering numbers are provided below the notes.

Musical notation system 4: Treble clef. Chords: G, G, Em, G, D, D7. Fingering numbers are provided below the notes.

Uncle Herman's Hornpipe

Key of D

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Capo 2nd Fret

C G F C G C

D7 G7 C G F C G C

G C G C G D7 G

C G D7 G G D7 G

16

C G D7 3- G G C G C

20

G C D7 G C

23

G C G C D7 G

Rights of Man

Key of Em

Arr. by Steve Kaufman
B7

1

Em —3—3— Em C

5

Em —3—3—3— Em C B7 Em

9

Em Em D D

13

Em D Em C B7 —3— Em

Katie Hill

Key of G

G6

G9

Steve's 1st solo from the Mystique CD with Bobby Hicks

C7

C#dim

G6

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

G6

Em

1 1 1 3 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 1 2 1 1 3 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 1

3 0-3-5-7-0-6-7 8-7-10-8 0-2-3-0 3 0-3-5-7-0-6-7 8-7-10-8 3-0

5 1 1 3 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 1 2 4 2 3 1 2 1 3 1 3 3 1 3 1

3 0-3-5-7-0-6-7 8-7-10-8 0-2-3-5 3-0 3-1-0 2-0-2 4-0-2 4-0 4-0-2 4-0-0-2

10 3 1 3 1 2 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 1

4-2-0-4-2-0 2-1 0-2 0-2 0-3 0-2 3-1-0 2-0-2 4-2-0-4-2-0-2

14 3 1 3 1 2 1 2 2 2 1 2 1 4 2 3 1 1 3 1

4-2-0-4-2-0 2-1 0-2 0-2 0-3 0-2 3-2-5-3-0 3-1 0 0-2 4-0-0-2 0-2 4-0

Indian Killed the Woodcock

Arr. by Steve Kaufman

Key of G

1

Chords: G, G, C, D, D

5

Chords: G, G, C, D, D, G

9

Chords: G, G, G, D7, G

13

Chords: G, G, G, D, G