

Folk Night at the Registry 2007-2008 Season

May 28, 2007

Folk Night at the Registry, co-presented by Kitchener's Registry Theatre and Old Chestnuts Song Circle, is once again pleased to introduce a blend of the best Canadian folk music and some of the finest local folk musicians.

October 13/07: Penny Lang plus Brad Nelson

Penny Lang's eighth album, "Stone + Sand + Sea + Sky" caps a remarkable four decade career during which this delightful 60-plus singer/guitarist has evolved from being a coffeehouse draw in her Montreal hometown to being one of Canada's leading roots-based artists.

Through her career, the fiercely unconventional Lang has played for the fishermen in Newfoundland, the farmers in Alberta, and audiences in coffeehouses and festivals throughout North America. She has also toured Australia, Italy, Denmark, France and the United Kingdom.

In 2003, she received the first "Prix Folqui" awarded by FOLQUEBEC. In December 2006 Penny was named "Best Artist: Solo", and her new recording "Best Album: Contemporary" at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. Lang is also the subject of a 1999 documentary "Stand Up: On High Ground with Penny Lang" by Jocelyne Clarke.

Cambridge singer/songwriter **Brad Nelson** will be opening.

December 8/07: Wassail!

The London, Ontario based production of **Wassail!** has been performed every Christmas season for more than 20 years, in theatres and folk clubs.

This wonderful production incorporates song, dance, poetry and prose to describe and illustrate customs and practices found in a 19th Century English village Christmas. In those days the villagers regularly gathered in the local pub to celebrate Christmas with songs of the season, dances, and stories of Christmas past. Many of the carols were collected from village choirs that still gather at Christmas time in the local pubs in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

The **Old Chestnuts Song Circle** will lead a traditional carol sing before the concert.

January 12/08: Remembering Stan Rogers

Many consider Stan Rogers to have been Canada's greatest singer/songwriter. June 2008 will mark the 25th anniversary of Stan's tragic death, and yet his legacy of songs is still echoing across the country and around the globe. Local folksinger Loretta Fullerton and Folk Night at the Registry have obtained permission to present a night of Stan's music as interpreted by several local musicians. Fullerton, Brad Nelson, Jack Cole, Dan Patterson, and Glen Soulis (and possibly others) will be joined by Roger's original guitarist and record producer, Curly Boy Stubbs (aka Paul Mills).

This very special production of Folk Night has also been invited to perform at the Cuckoo's Nest Folk Club in London the following evening.

February 9/08: Allison Lupton Band with guests Crabtree&Mills

Cambridge's **Allison Lupton** has been called a "triple-threat": she is a skilled instrumentalist, a captivating singer and a warm personality. Allison was raised in the rural township of West Zorra, Ontario, and it was there that her interest in traditional music began. She has recorded with several groups over the years including the band "Killiecrankie" and performed on CBC Radio's "The Vinyl Café", hosted by Stuart McLean.

Her first solo CD, "My True Love" has received critical acclaim on local and international radio. This concert is part of the CD release festivities for her second recording, to be released in the fall of 2007.

Allison's band features accomplished musicians Ian Bell (guitar, accordion), Denis Rondeau (acoustic bass), Geoff Somers (fiddle, mandolin, guitar) and Jay Weiler (fiddle).

Crabtree&Mills will perform an extended opening set. **Joanne Crabtree and Paul Mills**, known individually as pioneers in Canadian roots music (and both with recent solo CDs), teamed up early in 2006 to produce a recording showcasing her warmly vibrant voice and his playfully elegant guitar. As *Flight of Fancy* was taking shape in the studio, Crabtree&Mills played a series of concerts before sold-out houses in Toronto. The music they made was so exciting, and the chemistry between them so strong, folks stood up and cheered.

Paul says, "I love playing with Joanne. There's a great sense of fun and musicality in everything we do. The material she brings to the duo is always interesting and stretches me as a guitarist." Joanne says, "On stage and in the studio with Paul, I feel as if I've come home. Our musical styles fit hand in glove. Whether the song is a clever Cole Porter standard, or one of our own compositions, Paul's sparkling and mischievous playing encourages me to put my heart and soul into every note I sing".

April 26/08: Genticorum plus Jack Cooper

Genticorum are fast becoming one of the most sought-after proponents of Québécois musical culture, firmly rooted in the soil of their native land. The energetic and original traditional 'power trio' also incorporates the dynamism of today's North American and European folk cultures in their music.

Weaving wooden flute, fiddle, acoustic guitar, jaw harp, bass and foot percussion with strong vocal harmonies, they offer a blend of traditional songs and tunes as well as original compositions. Their distinctive sound, sense of humour and stage presence make them a supreme crowd pleaser. Since their debut in 2000, Genticorum has forged a solid place for itself on the folk and world music circuit, playing festivals, concerts and dances.

Their sophomore album 'Malins Plaisirs' won the Canadian Folk Music Award 2005 in the "Best Ensemble" category and was nominated for JUNO (Canada) and Felix (Québec) Awards in 2006. Their recent success in England, Scotland, Scandinavia, Germany, Malaysia, Israel, Egypt, Australia and New Zealand forecast a sparkling international career for these slightly naughty 'bons vivants'.

Kitchener's (now Guelph's) **Jack Cooper** will present an opening set of original songs from his two recordings.

May 10/08 – 2008 Merrick Jarrett Concert: The Dixie Flyers plus Nonie Crete

Since 1974, the **Dixie Flyers** have been entertaining audiences coast to coast in Canada and the U.S. with their original Canadian bluegrass. With their new album "Right On Track" – their ninth recording - the fun continues.

By their longevity, versatility, and an evolutionary approach to the idiom, the Flyers have been Canada's most prominent bluegrass band, performing at folk festivals (like Mariposa and Winnipeg), fairs, nightclubs and universities across the country. They were the host band in 1985 for CFPL-TV's 'Bluegrass Express' and have appeared on 'The Tommy Hunter Show' and many other Canadian country TV series.

Gospel, blues, country, folk – many styles come into the Dixie Flyers, but it all comes out bluegrass. The only predictable thing about them is that they are unpredictable. Like their heroes Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, always looking for something fresh and different. Putting their spin on the music that they love...

With five recordings to her credit, Fergus singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist **Nonie Crete** is a rising musical force. She has toured folk festivals and house concerts across Canada and the U.S., and in Ireland Nonie was featured on BBC and opened a concert for Clannad and Altan, where the response to her music was overwhelming.

Tickets for Folk Night at the Registry will be on sale soon. Series passes for \$75 are available now from jhcole@mgl.ca .