

Folk Night at the Registry: Season 6, 2011-2012



Season 6 of FNatR is presented by **The Registry Theatre** and **The Old Chestnuts Song Circle**, and is supported this year by **TD WATERHOUSE**, as well as private sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge their assistance, without which our presentation of lesser know artists would simply not be possible.

All shows are at **8pm on Saturdays**. All take place at **The Registry Theatre**, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener. Prices shown are Advance / At the door.

Concert 1: THE ONCE. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011. \$18 / \$20

From their beginnings as three actors who also loved to sing together, The Once has embraced a different vision of **Newfoundland music**. Their sounds do not come from the noisy pubs and dockside taverns that fuel so much of the Island's energy. Instead, their music comes from a quieter and more thoughtful place. Hope and tragedy are intertwined in their music, whether they are singing an old lament from World War I, original songs that speak of love defeated, or tasteful songs from the artists whose music inspires them.

As a trio, the band has kept it uncomplicated, depending on the power of their voices and acoustic instruments. Lead singer **Geraldine Hollett**, has an instrument of rare power; she is a singer who can still a noisy room, so expressive she can tell a novel-length story with a few words. Accompanied by **Phil Churchill** and **Andrew Dale** on vocals, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and bouzouki, they create a perfect blend of voice and melody. Sometimes melancholy, sometimes funny, always poignant, The Once sound like nothing else that has ever come from Newfoundland.

Their **debut album** has built a gradual but fervent following, and their live show is unique in its combination of intimacy and power. They have won several East Coast Music and Canadian Folk Music awards. Since they signed to Borealis Records in 2010, they have toured through out the country and Europe, drawing huge crowds and glowing reviews wherever they go. With their **new album *Row Upon Row of the People They Know***, The Once will take their place amongst Canada's finest performers.

Opening set to be announced.

Concert 2: WENDELL'S CRANKY CHRISTMAS. December 10, 2011. \$18 / \$20

A guitar player and songwriter like no other, Wendell Ferguson returns to The Registry with his Christmas show, "*Wendell Ferguson's Cranky Christmas*". The last time he was here, Wendell treated us to a couple of hilarious songs from the album, and we wanted to hear more!

He's been called, the "Weird Al Yankovic" of country music, a buffoon, charlatan and a general nuisance... but he sure can play the guitar! He won the Canadian Country Music Award's "Guitar Player of the Year" so many times (7) that they retired him from the category! He's also played with such diverse musicians as George Fox, Gordon Lightfoot, Shania Twain, Tommy Hunter, and the Dixie Chicks!

Accompanied by his band featuring singer/songwriter **Katherine Wheatley**, Wendell's Cranky Christmas captures all the silliness of the season and all the dubious humour of one of the funniest songwriters in the country.

Opening set to be announced.

Concert 3: AENGUS FINNAN. Saturday, February 11, 2012. \$15 / \$18

Described as "Disarmingly Artful" by The Toronto Star, "A Travelling Archivist" by Saturday Night Magazine, and a "Maverick Balladeer" by Echo magazine, Aengus Finnan's story-style songs explore the beauty, grace, grit and sorrow of real people and places. Born in Dublin Ireland to performing parents, and raised in Shelter Valley, Ontario, Aengus has worked as a research diver and ornithologist in Alberta, and as a school-teacher in Moosonee and in Inuvik.

His 1999 independent debut "*Fool's Gold*" drew quiet praise and included his much requested love song "*Lately*", while his 2002 sophomore release "*North Wind*" garnered critical acclaim. From this album his original songs "*Rolling Home*" and "*O'Shaughnessy's Lament*" were awarded the prestigious New Folk Songwriter's Award at the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas.

Aengus spent 6 years touring (1998-2004) including performances at the Yukon International Storytelling Festival, The Kennedy Center for the Arts, in Washington DC, and performances in Japan and Australia. Since 2004 Aengus has been working behind the scenes in the Ontario arts community, and **this Folk Night appearance marks his return** to concert presentations, and we are absolutely delighted to bring him back in Kitchener!

For his artistic and humanitarian work in Canada Aengus has been awarded a Canadian national decoration (the "Medal in Honour of The Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II"), and has been twice nominated for the Premiers Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Guelph singer-songwriter, Sam Turton will open.

Concert 4: Lynn Miles. Saturday, March 10, 2012. \$18 / \$20

Lynn Miles is one of Canada's most accomplished singer/songwriters. With eight albums to her credit, the winner of multiple Canadian Folk Music Awards, and a 2003 Juno Award for Roots & Traditional Solo Album of the Year, she has certainly found her strength over time.

Through a career that has seen her move from Ottawa to Los Angeles and back again, with stops in Nashville and Austin, she has always written music with unbridled feeling and vulnerability. Miles has consistently been unflinching in putting herself out there. Now with her eighth studio offering *Fall For Beauty* the voice of her experience has truly elevated her songwriting to its richest depth of emotion.

Her astute observations of life, its trials and triumphs, are the hallmark of sincerity in her music. The gritty honesty of her music never falters – neither does her unshakeable ability to make even the most melancholy lyrics sound as if they are brimming with hope and grace.

Opening set to be announced.

Concert 5 : VALDY. Saturday, April 14, 2012. \$18 / \$20

Valdy, has been part of the fabric of Canadian pop and folk music for well over 30 years. A man with a thousand friends, from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island to Texas to New Zealand, he's a singer, guitarist, songwriter, and – above all – *a live experience* who catches the small but telling moments that make up life.

Remembered for *Play Me a Rock and Roll Song*, Valdy has sold almost half a million copies of his 13 albums, has two Juno Awards (Folk Singer of the Year and Folk Entertainer of the Year), a total of seven Juno nominations and four Gold albums to his credit. One of Canada's most influential songwriters, Valdy's composition *A Good Song* was recorded under the title *Just a Man* by the venerable Quincy Jones. *Play Me a Rock and Roll Song* has been recorded by a few artists, including John Kay of Steppenwolf.

Along the way, Valdy has taken his music to a dozen different countries, from Denmark to Australia and been an often-invited performer at the prestigious Kerrville Festival in Texas. His recent television appearances include Canada AM and Open Mike with Mike Bullard. Valdy has also been a panelist on Front Page Challenge, and played a lead role in an episode of The Beachcombers original series.

Opening set to be announced.

Concert 6: Friends of Fiddler's Green (2012 Merrick Jarrett concert). Saturday, May 12, 2012. \$20 / \$25

The Toronto-based "Friends" boast six versatile musicians, five fine singers, two brilliant joke tellers, two widely-sung songwriters, and the occasional Fiery Dragon. This totally uncategorizable collection has been together, in one form or another, for forty years, and has played countless clubs, concerts and festivals across Canada and the northern United States. Nobody, not even the Friends themselves, can predict what might happen during one of their concerts, but it always includes humour, powerful vocal harmony, great musicianship, social commentary and an irresistible urge to dance.

The "Friends" were recipients of the 2003 Estelle Klein Award, awarded by the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals for service to folk music. They have released one album, "*The Road to Mandalay*" on the Fogarty's Cove label.

We are delighted to gather together The Friends of Fiddler's Green – which may include any or all of **Alistair Brown** (now in England), **Tam Kearney** (Toronto), **Grit Laskin** (Toronto), **Cherie Whelan** (Michigan) , **Ian Robb** (Ottawa), **Laurence Stevenson** (Toronto), and **Ian Bell** (Paris, ON) – to celebrate our 6th annual Merrick Jarrett concert!

Opening performer to be announced.

Please contact Jack Cole, jhcole@mgl.ca, 519-578-6298 for more information.
Part of the Grand River Folk Community, www.grandriverfolk.org .

