

## Folk Night at the Registry: Season 9, 2014-2015



**Season 9** of FNatR is presented by **The Registry Theatre** and **The Old Chestnuts Song Circle**. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our supporters and subscribers, without whom our presentation of lesser-known artists would simply not be possible. This year features an unprecedented number of American performers, thanks to the enthusiasm for Folk Night that has resulted from our past Brother Sun and Joe Crookston shows. We will welcome singer-songwriters and traditional musicians, bringing audiences the broad and evocative music that makes up "folk".

All shows are at **8pm** and take place at **The Registry Theatre**, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener. Prices shown are Advance / At the door. Advance tickets are available through the Centre In The Square. Part of The Registry Roots Weekend (below).

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### **Concert 1: JOHN GORKA. Saturday, October 4, 2014. \$20 / \$25**

*"With a tangle of songs that emotionally connect us all and leave a tender trace, John Gorka stimulates the cerebrum, keeps our smiles agile and fit and reconnects us with what really matters most in music: honesty."*

~ Brian Dambrosio, The Huffington Post

From New Jersey, John Gorka is a world-renowned singer-songwriter who got his start in the late 1970's at a neighborhood coffeehouse. He soon found himself living in the club's basement and acting as MC and sound man, encountering legendary folk troubadours like **Stan Rogers**, **Eric Andersen**, and **Tom Paxton**. Their brand of folk-inspired acoustic music inspired him, and before long he was performing his own songs. Folk meccas like the Kerrville Folk Festival (where he won the New Folk Award in 1984) followed, and his stunningly soulful baritone voice and original songwriting began turning heads.



In 1987 Red House Records caught wind of John's talents and released his first album, *I Know*, to popular and critical acclaim. Windham Hill's High Street label released five more recordings over the next seven years. Since returning to Red House in 1998, Gorka has recorded six more solo albums with backing work from folks like **Ani DiFranco**, **Mary Chapin Carpenter**, **Lucy Kaplansky** and **Patty Larkin**. His latest, *Bright Side of Down*, was released in March 2014. John has also joined **Kaplansky** and **Eliza Gilkyson** under the band name **Red Horse**, releasing an album in 2010. Getting high praise from critics and fans alike, it was one of the most played albums on folk radio. A collector's edition DVD/CD box set called *The Gypsy Life*, plus a Windham Hill retrospective called *Pure John Gorka* rounds out a most impressive discography.

Gorka's songs, full of depth, beauty and emotion, have gained attention from critics and audiences across the continent as well as in Europe where tours have taken him to Italy, Belgium, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Switzerland, and Germany. He also shared tours with many notable friends like **Nanci Griffith** and **Mary Chapin Carpenter**. John has graced the stage of PBS's *Austin City Limits*, NPR's *Mountain Stage*, *etown* and has appeared on CNN.

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### **Concert 2: JOE CROOKSTON. November 29, 2014. \$18 / \$20**

*"Joe Crookston is decidedly one of today's standout troubadours"* - Roots Music Examiner

Born and raised in rural Ohio, Joe Crookston makes his home in Ithaca, New York. Whether it's his hypnotic guitar sound, bubbling banjo, wailing fiddle, or his gripping short story lyrics, his music draws from his urban adventures and rural roots, exuding a remarkable timeless quality. A gifted songwriter, Joe also incorporates a great respect for traditional music into his performances.

His first label album, *Fall Down as the Rain*, was named "Best Folk Recording" by Seattle's KBCS radio, and was selected by Performing Songwriter Magazine as one of 2004's top 12 self-produced

independent recordings. The title song stayed near the top of the Folk DJ Charts for 2006, and was recently recorded by Kitchener's **Al Parrish**. It has become one of the most popular songs ever at **The Old Chestnuts Song Circle**.

In 2007, Crookston received a Rockefeller Foundation grant for a project called "Songs of the Finger Lakes". Emulating Woody Guthrie, he spent a year traveling in the Finger Lakes region of New York state, collecting stories to turn into songs. Also in 2007, audiences at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival (New York) selected him as one of the artists they most wanted to return the following year, leading to a 23-concert tour in the northeastern U.S. with venues including the Kennedy Center.



His second CD, *Able Baker Charlie & Dog* was awarded "Album of the Year" by the International Folk Alliance, receiving **more radio airplay than any other folk album** released in 2008. This was followed in 2010 by *Darkling & The Bluebird Jubilee*, which likewise garnered rave reviews. "Listeners will walk away from this album ... with a sense of musical wonder, as well as a sense that one has just experienced something rather profound", wrote examiner.com. It has been added to my own personal list of all-time favourite albums. *Georgia I'm Here* (2014) includes a re-take on *Fall Down as the Rain*, plus 9 other original songs, a cover, and the traditional song *Pretty Saro*.

Through his spirit and playfulness and his unwavering courage to be himself, you will be moved in ways you didn't expect. He is literate, poignant and funny as hell. Joe made his Canadian debut for us in September of 2012, and it's a very great pleasure to have him back at The Registry.

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**Concert 3: MUSTARD'S RETREAT. Saturday, February 14, 2015. \$17 / \$20**

*"They are so warm and friendly and giving on stage, completely in touch with their audience,"*  
~ Tom Paxton



Mustard's Retreat (**David Tamulevich** and **Michael Hough**), met in Ann Arbor, MI in 1974, as short order cooks, both on hiatus from their studies at the University of Michigan. Discovering a mutual interest in music/writing and performing, they put together 3 songs one day after work, and took them to the legendary Ark Coffeehouse's open mic night. They were a hit, and were invited back to do a 45 minute set. Within a year and a half they were doing music full time. 40 years later, they have 12 highly acclaimed recordings of their own, plus 3 more CDs with their songwriting collective, The Yellow Room Gang. Mustard's Retreat has performed more than 4,000 shows over those years, traveled more than 1 million miles and in doing so, have earned a dedicated and loyal following, many of whom have been coming to hear them since the 1970s.

"I work with them several times a year and always wish it was more." said songwriter **Garnet Rogers**, who also produced their landmark recording *The Wind and the Crickets*. "The thing that always impresses me is the incredible openness they have with the audience. They stand up there and just radiate friendliness; the audience is included in the whole process, encouraged to sing along and talk back. I've learned a lot from them in that sense."

While both Tamulevich and Hough are grounded in the early traditional 60s folk music boom, they also were influenced by the songwriters of that time, and their shows represent an eclectic blend of music, old and new, with a big dash of storytelling. Many of those moments are the result of their well-respected and broad body of original material, written both individually and together.

“And it is still new, fresh, exciting....and fun” concludes Tamulevich. “We still really enjoy all of this: the writing and the performing. Audiences let us know that they enjoy it as well. They have taken our music and made it a part of their lives: that is the ultimate compliment, and as long as they want to see us, we plan to keep performing.”

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**Concert 4: TRENT SEVERN. Saturday, March 14, 2015. \$17 / \$20 (Roots Weekend!)**



**Trent Severn** is a trio from Stratford, Ontario comprised of indie songster **Emm Gryner**, the multi-talented **Dayna Manning**, and violin whiz/songbird **Laura C. Bates**.

When listening to their self-titled 10-track debut album - which was nominated for two 2013 Canadian Folk Music Awards - the first influence that comes to mind is **Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young**. There is no lead singer in Trent Severn. There are no doubled tracks. There is a guitar or banjo (Manning), a bass and stomp box (Gryner), a fiddle, and a shaker here and there. The sound of this band is CANADIANA, based in Folk, Roots and Old Country.

And the roots of this trio are deep. **Emm Gryner** is an acclaimed singer-songwriter with several albums to her credit. She won the Canadian Music Publisher's Songwriting scholarship, the Radiostar Songwriting Contest and has been nominated three times for a Juno Award. U2's **Bono** named Emm's song 'Almighty Love' as one of 6 songs that he wishes he had written. She was a member of David Bowie's touring band. **Dayna Manning** has released three solo records, one Juno-nominated. Manning has toured the country with 54-40, Joe Cocker, Burton Cummings and opened for Radiohead. Her songwriting is sincere and superbly crafted, her finger-picking skills are unmatched and her voice is truly unmistakable. **Laura C. Bates** is the first violinist to receive a Bachelor in Jazz and Contemporary Music from Humber College. She has performed at Massey Hall, The Glenn Gould Studio, The West End Cultural Centre, on Canada's Got Talent, live on CBC Radio, four national tours and folk festivals including Mariposa, Hillside, Shelter Valley, Northern Lights, and Blue Skies. She takes joy in fiddling everywhere from concert halls to camp fires.

Trent Severn are three treasured and talented musicians who have years of experience touring this country, getting to know audiences and creating lasting friendships. This band is a seed that blooms to life on a Canadian stage. Recent stages have included the official flag raising ceremony on Parliament Hill for Canada Day (where they sang *O Canada*) and singing with Chris Hadfield in his first earthly performance of *Space Oddity*.

***Trent Severn will also be offering a "Harmony Singing" workshop (\$30) at The Registry in the afternoon. The concert and workshop are part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Registry Roots Weekend, which will also feature a Friday evening concert (\$27) and a Saturday morning "Arranging Songs" workshop (\$40) with the incredible KRUGER BROTHERS.***

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**Concert 5 : ANNIE PATTERSON, PETER BLOOD & GUESTS. April 18, 2015. \$20 / \$25**  
**The RISE AGAIN Songbook Project**

**Peter Blood** and **Annie Patterson** have played a central role in helping to create a quiet revolution of group singing in North America in recent years. They have spent decades honing their skills as songleaders in schools, camps, churches, conferences, folk song clubs and festivals. Groups in all these settings have treasured their uncanny ability to choose songs that are fun and inspiring, to teach these songs to groups of all ages, and to get them engaged in spirited group singing.

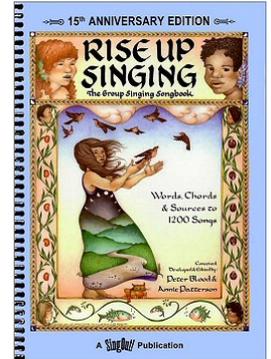
They used this wealth of songleading experience to create a completely unique song



collection entitled *Rise Up Singing*. Their book contains a wonderful mix of 1200 songs from Beatles to Broadway, from spirituals to carols, and from kids songs to songs of peace and justice. A true underground best-seller, the collection has sold over a million copies since its publication in 1988 with a minimum of publicity, promotion or marketing. Pete Seeger (who penned the introduction to RUS) has said that their songbook is making "a qualitative difference in music in America."

Hundreds of community groups, including the **Old Chestnuts Song Circle** here in Kitchener, get together regularly for "singarounds" using the Blood-Pattersons' songbook. In the decades since it has been published, the songbook has taken on a central role in the folk music community throughout North America.

They are currently working on the creation of a new songbook, *Rise Again*, with words & guitar chords to 1200 more songs, and the **Old Chestnuts** is proud to have had a hand in the selection and arrangement of songs in the new book. Many favourites of the local song circle, that were completely unknown to Annie and Peter, have been included. The new book is scheduled for release in the spring of 2015, and it is fervently hoped that it will be available at this concert.



**The concert will also feature guests.** Composers of songs in *Rise Again* are being invited to attend to perform their songs. Several – many of whom have performed for Folk Night - have already confirmed their participation and more are expected. This will be a very special night!

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**Concert 6: IAN TAMBLYN (2015 Merrick Jarrett concert)  
Saturday, May 30, 2015. \$17 / \$20**



**Ian Tamblin** has been a full time musician since 1972. He has released 36 albums and CDs of his work as well as acting as producer for dozens of other artists. Over the years Ian has written "too many songs" and has given up on counting them. He has also written thirteen plays and over 100 theatre soundtracks. His most recent play is called *Nun of It*.

Mr. Tamblin has received a number of awards and nominations throughout his lengthy career. In 2012, Ian was made a fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society for his guiding work in the Canadian Arctic.

He has been awarded the **Estelle Klein** and **Helen Verger Awards** for his contributions to Canadian folk music; he has a honorary doctorate from Lakehead University, and a Distinguished Alumni Award from Trent University. He has a **Juno award** from 1976, a June nomination from 1990, a Canadian Folk Music Awards Best Album nomination from 2006, and was voted CFMA **English Songwriter of the Year** in 2010.

Ian has recently completed work on a CD of songs (called *Connected*) that were written by students on the "Students on Ice" project in the summer of 2013. As well, Ian has recently completed work on his CD, *The Labrador*, the last of his "Four Coast Project" CDs.

In the next year Ian will be back in Arctic and Antarctic with the expedition company "Adventure Canada" and "Students on Ice". Next summer he will be writer in residence at Torngat National Park on the north Labrador coast. Recently he has been appointed writer in residence at Carleton University's Faculty of Music for the academic year 2014-15.

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, hammer dulcimer player, and nature enthusiast – Ian Tamblin is a most worthy guest for our 9<sup>th</sup> Merrick Jarrett night.

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Part of the Grand River Folk Community, [www.grandriverfolk.org](http://www.grandriverfolk.org) .