

Folk Night at the Registry: Season 11, 2016-2017



Our 11th year features another exciting line-up of iconic and emerging folk artists, thanks to the enthusiastic support of our Folk Night audiences. We will welcome singer-songwriters and traditional musicians from both near (Cambridge, Toronto) and far (Montreal, PEI, Nova Scotia, England, New Hampshire), bringing audiences the broad and evocative music that makes up “folk”. The March concert is part of **The Registry Roots Weekend** (more below), and the final concert is our 11th **Merrick Jarrett** night.

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 world-class and lesser-known artists would simply not be possible.

All shows are on **Saturdays at 8pm**, and take place at **The Registry Theatre**, 122 Frederick St, Kitchener. Prices shown are Advance / At the door, and **include HST**. Our **6-concert series pass is \$96**. Advance tickets and passes are available now, **exclusively through www.folknight.ca**. Most concerts sell out well ahead.

Season at a glance

October 29, 2016	JEZ LOWE [UK]
November 19, 2016	LAURA SMITH + NAMING THE TWINS [Nova Scotia] (<i>Double Feature</i>)
January 21, 2017	BRAD NELSON + SHEILA CARABINE [Ontario] (<i>Double Feature</i>)
March 18, 2017	LENNIE GALLANT [PEI] (<i>Registry Roots Weekend with The Celts</i>)
April 8, 2017	STEEL RAIL [Quebec]
May 6, 2017	BILL STAINES [US] (<i>11th Merrick Jarrett night</i>)

JEZ LOWE ♪ **October 29, 2016** ♪ **\$18 / \$20**

www.jezlowe.com

“Jez Lowe is one of our finest songwriters.” - BBC Radio 2

With the recent announcement of a double nomination in the 2015 BBC Folk Awards (Folksinger of the Year and Best Song), Northern England’s **Jez Lowe** strides through his third decade as a song-writing troubadour, on the strength of a new and much acclaimed album – his nineteenth – entitled “The Ballad Beyond”.



It was the release of the 2012 compilation CD “HEADS UP – 18 Essential Jez Lowe Songs” that made the acoustic/folk world realize that Jez has rapidly gained ground as the most “covered” songwriter on the UK circuit. Over the last couple of decades the likes of **Fairport Convention**, The Dubliners, The Unthanks, Wizz Jones, The McCalmans, Mary Black, **The Duhks**, Bob Fox, The Young Un’s, Enda Kenny, Cherish The Ladies, Tom McConville, **The Clancys** and scores more, have queued up to adopt his songs for their own repertoires. No wonder no less than **Richard Thompson** has called him “The best singer songwriter to come out of the UK for a long time”.

The bulk of Jez’s time is spent “on the road”. He’s long been one of the UK’s busiest folk performers, playing for audiences the world over, either solo, (with guitar, cittern and harmonica), or with his band The Bad Pennies. In 2015 Jez joined forces with James Keelaghan and Archie Fisher – both past Folk Night performers - for the Men At Words North American tour. Jez has been a frequent headliner at The Mill Race Festival in Cambridge (Ontario), and Cambridge audiences have come to love both his songwriting, his sense of humour, and his memorable performances.

As BBC Radio DJ Mike Harding has said “No-one else writes or sounds like Jez Lowe”.

Double Feature: LAURA SMITH + NAMING THE TWINS ♪ **Nov. 19, 2016** ♪ **\$20 / \$25**

www.laurasmith.ca www.namingthetwins.com

Born and raised in London, Ontario, Laura Smith grew up loving horses, theatre and language. She began to play music at age 19, first teaching herself piano chords, then guitar. Her public debut performance occurred at the famous London club **Smale’s Place**, the coffee house where she worked as a waitress.

In the late 1970's Laura relocated to Cape Breton, and then Halifax. Playing at ceilidhs, she blossomed in the nurturing atmosphere. With support from CBC, she recorded her first, self-titled album in 1989, followed in 1994 by "**b'tween the earth and my soul**", which ignited a blaze of radio and television appearances, a tour and a plethora of special performances.

In 1996, she won two East Coast Music Awards (Female Artist, Album of the Year) and two Juno nominations (for Best New Solo Artist and Best Roots and Traditional Album). In 1995, her song "Shade of Your Love" was the most played Adult Contemporary song in Canada. In 1997, she won a Gemini Award for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series. At the request of CBC radio personality, Peter Gzowski, who was receiving a Governor's General Award, she performed her heartbreaking adaptation of "My Bonny" at that prestigious Ottawa ceremony. 🎵



Naming the Twins is the harmonizing duo of **Robbie Smith** and **Kathleen Glauser**, whose well-matched voices sound a bit like Simon & Garfunkel if Art was a girl, a bit like Peter, Paul & Mary, if one of the boys was taking the night off, a bit like Gordon Lightfoot or Stan Rogers if they had had a girl harmonizer.



All 13 tracks from their first album, "Sweet Transitions" (produced by **Paul Mills**) received healthy airplay on programs such as The Midnight Special, syndicated throughout the US. They have just released their second album featuring all original folk songs with a Canadiana/Americana theme, distinctive guy-gal harmonies, and a supportive array of acoustic instruments. "Drifters and Dreamers", takes the listener from the wild seas aboard a whaling vessel off the coast of Newfoundland, on a river journey down the Old Missouri, to a quarry in the hot deep-southern sun, with many stops in between.

Their energy, casual banter, wide variety of song styles and remarkably well matched voices captivate audiences wherever they perform.

"Naming the Twin is bright, breezy and delightful. Their sound is wonderful...reminiscent of the best folk duos of the 60's and 70's." - Bob Sherman

Double Feature: **BRAD NELSON** + **SHEILA CARABINE** 🎵 Jan. 21, 2017 🎵 \$16 / \$20

NelsonFolk www.sheilacarabine.com



Acoustic music has been a part of **Brad Nelson's** life since he was a kid, when he got the bug at the Mariposa Folk Festival when it was still held in Orillia, and he's been performing ever since. He credits many musical influences including folk, but also pop, country, rock, maritime, even Celtic. You name it, Brad has probably played it at one time or another.

His stage experience includes performing regularly as a kid on TV, opening for the **Four Seasons** at the Barrie Arena as a novelty kid act, touring briefly with "Up With People", playing the Maritimes in the Celtic pub band "**The Farriers**", and performing as a solo act in clubs in the KW area for many years.

Lately, Brad has been playing the concert set with several **Stan Rogers** revival shows, as well as opening for **Penny Lang**, Laura Bird, and Nonie Crete, where he has treated concert audiences to his original songs, including his humorous "Timmy's Anthem" which has garnered (so far) over 330,000 hits on YouTube. 🎵

After twelve years of writing and performing in Juno-nominated Canadian folk duo **Dala**, **Sheila Carabine** is set to release her debut solo album. The initial inspiration for the album was sparked by a chance visit to an Acadian community in Nova Scotia. "There was something about the ebb and flow of the high and low tides in the Bay of Fundy, and the experience of being totally immersed in a French community," observes Sheila. "I finally felt free to sing and stand alone out there".

The majority of the recordings were done in an over 100-year old chapel in Church Point, Nova Scotia. Featuring songs like "Fishing Boats", a dark reflection on Carabine's Irish ancestry, as well as the defiant piano ballad "Love Isn't Free", the album touches on themes of love, loss and the longing for fulfillment. As a nod to



Carabine's immersion experience, the album will also include a traditional French song, "À La Claire Fontaine". "I just hope my pronunciation passes the test," laughs Carabine.

Sheila's debut solo album will be released in September 2016, and her CD release tour includes this return to The Registry, where Dala – winner of Canadian Folk Music awards and Juno nominated - appeared in 2010.

LENNIE GALLANT ♪ Saturday, March 18, 2017 ♪ \$20 / \$25
Part of The Registry Roots Weekend with THE CELTS

www.lenniegallant.com/

A native of the Acadian village of Rustico, PEI, **Lennie Gallant** has recorded eleven albums (nine mostly in English and two in French), which have won him a host of awards and nominations from the JUNOs, the East Coast Music Awards, and Les Prix Eloizes. He was recently honoured with a 2015 Canadian Folk Music Award for his recording "Live Acoustic at The Carleton". His latest studio recording, "If We Had a Fire" was described by Dirty Linen Magazine as "another winning collection of first-rate songs by one of Canada's premier songwriters", and picked up the award for Roots Recording of the Year from East Coast Music Awards. His previous album, "When We Get There", was nominated for a Juno Award and flew to the International Space Station aboard Shuttle Endeavour with Canadian astronaut Julie Payette.



Over 30 artists have recorded his songs, including Measha Bruggersgosman, Ode de L'Acadie, **The Rankins**, and **Jimmy Buffet**, and his songs have appeared in feature films, television series, and numerous theatrical productions. Lennie has recently wrapped up the second season of his runaway multimedia hit musical, "Searching For Abegweit -The Island Songs & Stories of Lennie Gallant", which ran for over 85 sold out shows in Charlottetown. He has just released a new double CD of 22 songs from that production, and many of the show's visual images appear in the book "Peter's Dream", a collaboration with sibling visual artist Karen Gallant that showcases 52 of her paintings paired up with his songs.

A recipient of the Order of Canada, Lennie is an international touring artist who has represented Canada at songwriter events in Nashville, London, and Texas, entertained our troops in Kandahar, performed at Canada Day events in Washington and London, and on the world stage at the Winter Olympics.

"Our northern neighbor has given us some of the best songwriters living today. You can add Lennie Gallant to that list." - The Performing Songwriter, Nashville. ♪

The Celts (featuring Nonie Thompson, Eugene Rae, Anne Lederman, and Tom Leighton) will perform their multimedia show "The Real St. Patrick" on Friday, March 17 (\$25, not included in the series pass). A pair of workshops featuring performers from the weekend (TBA) will be offered on Saturday morning and afternoon.

STEEL RAIL ♪ April 8, 2017 ♪ \$18 / \$20

www.steelrail.ca



Striking original material and a fresh acoustic sound have made **Steel Rail** a favourite of fans and critics over the last two decades. The Quebec band's three albums have received rave reviews in such esteemed folk magazines as Dirty Linen, Sing Out! and Penguin Eggs.

Tod Gorr grew up near Kingston, Ont., and now lives in the Laurentians north of Montreal. **Ellen Shizgal** was born and bred in Montreal. **Dave Clarke** recently returned to his home town of Montreal after spending almost a decade living in Alberta and British Columbia. The result: material that ranges from the wide-open Prairies to deep in the Ottawa Valley and further east to the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River.

The group has also been acclaimed for its lush harmonies, Dave's stellar picking -- he's been hailed as one of Canada's best acoustic guitarists -- and a sound that gets its sensibility from folk and its soul from bluegrass and old-style country.

Steel Rail played for us in March of 2007, in our very first season, to great reviews. It will be interesting to hear how they've developed over the last 10 years!

"If you were to fuse early Gordon Lightfoot onto current Del McCoury or the Seldom Scene, something very like Steel Rail would emerge" - John McLaughlin, Vancouver Province

BILL STAINES ♪ May 6, 2017 ♪ \$18 / \$20

<http://www.acousticmusic.com/staines/>

"Bill Staines has been my hero since 1977. He carries on where Woody left off - carrying on the tradition of stories and characters you wish you knew." - Nanci Griffith

"Staines is one of the best songwriters in folk music today, penning lyrics that evoke a sense of place and a generous spirit to go along with his pretty melodies." - Associated Press

For more than forty years, **Bill Staines** has traveled back and forth across North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folksong societies, colleges, concerts, clubs, and coffeehouses. A New England native, Bill became involved with the Boston-Cambridge folk scene in the early 1960's where he quickly became "Boston's best performer" (Boston Pheonix).

Singing mostly his own songs, he has become one of the most popular and durable singers on the folk music scene today, performing nearly 200 concerts a year and driving over 65,000 miles annually. He weaves a blend of gentle wit and humour into his performances and one reviewer wrote "He has a sense of timing to match the best standup comic."



Many of Bill's songs have appeared in school music books, church hymnals, and scouting campfire songbooks; he has eight songs published in **Rise up Singing**. Composer **David Amram** recently described Bill as "a modern day Stephen Foster...his songs will be around 100 years from now." Those songs include such well-know folk anthems as "A Place In The Choir", "Crossing The Water", "Roseville Fair", and "River".

Bill has made 4 songbooks and recorded 26 albums: two were winners of the prestigious Parents' Choice Award, taking a gold medal and silver medal respectively. His songs have been recorded by many artists including **Peter, Paul, and Mary**, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy, The Highwaymen, Mason Williams, Grandpa Jones, Jerry Jeff Walker, **Nanci Griffith**, Priscilla Herdman, and Glen Yarborough.

We are delighted and honoured to have Bill Staines perform at our 11th **Merrick Jarrett** concert, remembering Kitchener's icon of folk music.

Please contact Jack Cole, jhcole@mgl.ca, 519-578-6298 for more information. Visit www.folknight.ca to order tickets.

Presented by The Registry Theatre and The Old Chestnuts Song Circle.

Part of the Grand River Folk Community, www.grandriverfolk.org .

