



SONGS FROM THE
NORTHERN
RANGE

TOM WILSON
STEWART MacDOUGALL
BYRON MYHRE
KEITH BURGESS
THOM MOON

About the Production

AS INDIVIDUAL SONGWRITERS, **Tom Wilson** (vocal, guitar) and **Stewart MacDougall** (vocal, piano) have crafted some of the all-time best country and folk songs ever to come out of the Canadian Prairies, yet we bet you've rarely heard them! "The Harvest Dance," "Rockies in the Rain," "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," "Frankie," "On The Radio," "Tommy & June," "Home to Glory," "Wind in the Wire," "Yellowhead to Yellowstone," "Come Away," "I Just Like Trains," "Sleep Come Take Me Home," "Cactus Swing" – the list goes on. In a wonderfully paced evening of entertainment, your audience will get an unforgettable opportunity to hear these and other fabulous songs performed by two talented yet (mostly) unheralded musical authors at the peak of their game, and learn firsthand about the inspiration behind their stellar song writing.

The program, which had its inauguration during Alberta Arts Days celebrations in 2009, has been well-received by audiences, to the delight of the two featured songwriters.

"It's been a real pleasure to work with Keith, Byron and Thom over the years. On stage or in the studio ... there's always been a certain comfortable magic when we play music together," says Wilson. "The same has been true with Stewart and me, and I have such a deep respect for his song writing and musicianship. This, for me, is the dream group."

Adds McDougall: "Thom and I, of course, played and recorded with Ian Tyson for years. And I've always been a bluegrass fan, but being a piano player and a baritone I'm not often invited to the bandstand. I've been a fan of Tom, Byron and Keith for almost as long, so I'm especially delighted to be sharing it with them."

Fiddler **Byron Myhre** (vocal, fiddle, mandolin), a second-generation old-time fiddle champion and bluegrass fiddler, amply demonstrates his fiddle and mandolin prowess that has made him one of the most in-demand sidemen and session players in western Canada today. Likewise **Thom Moon** (drums, percussion), a savvy and versatile stalwart of the Calgary and Alberta roots music scene, anchors the band's heartbeat with a tastefully simple groove.

For his part, **Keith Burgess** (vocal, upright bass), the show's producer, is delighted to present songs from two of the best guys making music on the Prairies these days.

"There is something very familiar and comforting about this music," says Burgess. "I am especially pleased to present this show in conjunction with 2012 Arts Days celebrating Alberta musicians and artists. We have such wonderful talent right here in our own backyard. Young Albertans will be inspired!"

For more information or to book your **Songs from the Northern Range** show, please contact:

The PandaBird Agency



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About the Performers

A COMPELLING AND ENTERTAINING BLEND of folk, country, swing, and old-time fiddle, **Songs from the Northern Range** showcases the original songs of Saskatchewan's **Tom Wilson** and Alberta's **Stewart MacDougall**. Tom and Stewart are joined by bluegrass pals **Byron Myhre** and **Keith Burgess** of Jerusalem Ridge fame **and** Calgary percussionist **Thom Moon** on a colourful, fun and endearing musical journey through the Canadian heartland, featuring Wilson's and MacDougall's all-time best-loved tunes.

Tom Wilson



VIVID CONTEMPORARY PRAIRIE IMAGES and classic themes of love, heartaches and highways are etched in the memorable songs of West Virginia native Tom Wilson (vocal/guitar). A prolific, passionate songwriter, Tom has recorded two albums, *Another Blue Sky Day* and *On the Radio*. He was a featured artist on the Smithsonian Folkways *Alberta: Wild Roses Northern Lights* compilation recording of Alberta folk music, as well as on the companion recording for *Coal Dust Grins: Portraits of Canadian Coal Miners*, produced by Alberta master photographer Lawrence Christmas. The well-known proprietor/host of the former Rosebud Café and Rosebud Folk Club in southeastern Alberta, Tom has appeared on stage and on radio with CBC Radio's *Vinyl Café* host Stuart MacLean and with a multitude of Canadian country, bluegrass, folk and roots music performers. A resident of Calgary for twenty years, Tom now makes his home in southwestern Saskatchewan.

Stewart MacDougall



FOR 30 YEARS, STEWART MACDOUGALL (vocal/piano) has been one of Alberta's busiest and most diverse musicians and songwriters. Before pursuing a solo career in 1997, he was best known for his work with k.d. lang, Ian Tyson, Great Western Orchestra, and aboriginal singer Laura Vinson. His songs have been recorded by all of these artists as well as country star Randy Travis and others. The National Film Board of Canada produced a hilarious cartoon short based on "Cactus Swing," a song co-written with GWO's David Wilkie. Stewart's compelling discography includes three albums, *Gathering Time* and *heresay*, as well as *Ghost Trains: All of the Songs and Some of the Story*, a dramatic music-and-spoken-word tribute to the railroader's life, created with Saskatchewan playwright Mansel Robinson. A successful musical collaborator, Stewart co-penned the title track for Ian Tyson's most recent album, *Yellowhead to Yellowstone and Other Love Stories*, released in 2008.

About the Performers

Byron Myhre



A FEROCIOUS, NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING FIDDLER, as well as a formidable mandolin player and guitarist, multi-instrumentalist Byron Myhre has performed and recorded with well-known blues guitarist Eric Bibb, Alberta folk songstress Maria Dunn, bluegrass mandolin great John Reischman, and many more. With Jerusalem Ridge, Byron toured western Canada and the Pacific Northwest extensively, and was a featured guest in symphonic performances with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Keith Burgess



A VETERAN BLUEGRASS PERFORMER, producer, instructor, author, and journalist, Keith Burgess' musical talent extends well beyond the numerous stages he appeared on during Jerusalem Ridge's ground-breaking 18-year run as one of the most successful bluegrass bands ever to emerge in western Canada. Keith recorded six albums with Jerusalem Ridge. He is the author of *Establishing Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Performing Roots Music in Canada*, and was the band's manager, agent and executive producer for the highly successful *Fire on the Mountain: A Bluegrass Music Experience* bluegrass-goes-to-the-symphony production.

Thom Moon



SMART, TASTEFUL AND SWEET describes drummer Thom Moon's fabulous percussion work for the likes of Amos Garrett, Cindy Church and others. Moon spent 17 years touring with Ian Tyson and playing on some of Tyson's finest works including *Old Corrals and Sagebrush*, *Cowboyography*, and *Live at Longview*. Moon is frequently sought after as a session player and sideman, having performed and recorded with a wide range of roots and folk music artists. Most recently, he appeared with the Front Porch Roots Revue produced by Juno Award-winning musical columnist Peter North.

About the Songs

SONGS FROM THE NORTHERN RANGE showcases the work of both songwriters, with additional fiddle and mandolin instrumentals featuring Byron. **Tom Wilson** has recorded two acclaimed independent albums, *Another Blue Sky Day* and *On the Radio*. **Stewart MacDougall** has three albums available: *Gathering Time*, *heresay*, and *Ghost Trains*.

(Note: Song line-up is subject to change due to sudden and unavoidable artistic impulses, additional financial remuneration, and/or changes in wind direction...)

Set 1

1. A Few More Miles to Travel (*Tom Wilson*)
2. On The Radio (*Tom Wilson*)
3. If You're Still There (*S. MacDougall*)
4. Zydeco Began (*S. MacDougall*)
5. Medley: Big John McNeil / St. Anne's Reel / Cherokee Shuffle (*trad.*) - *instrumental*
6. Wind in the Wire (*S. MacDougall/D. Wilkie*)
7. Tommy & June (*Tom Wilson*)
8. Like A John Deere Tractor (*Tom Wilson*)
9. I Just Like Trains (*S. MacDougall/M. Robinson*)
10. Home to Glory (*Tom Wilson*)
11. Come Away (*S. MacDougall*)
12. Trouble on My Tail (*S. MacDougall*)

Set 2

1. Makin' Some Time for You (*Tom Wilson*)
2. The Harvest Dance (*Tom Wilson/K. Simpson*)
3. Yellowhead to Yellowstone (*S. MacDougall/I. Tyson*)
4. Frankie (*Tom Wilson/L. Christmas/C. Miller*)
5. Dark Territory (*S. MacDougall/M. Robinson*)
6. The Saskatoon Blues (*Tom Wilson*)
7. The Lovers' Waltz (*J. Ungar/M. Mason*) - *instrumental*
8. Cactus Swing (*S. MacDougall/D. Wilkie*)
9. Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (*Tom Wilson*)
10. Sleep Come Take Me Home (*S. MacDougall*)
11. Ghost Trains (*S. MacDougall/M. Robinson*)
12. There's A Whole Lotta Bull in the Barn (*Tom Wilson*)

Producer's Notes

LIKE MY MUSICAL COMPANIONS in this production, I've been a musician and performer for almost a lifetime. While the song writing muse, for the most part, has eluded me in my exercise of this God-given talent, I have come to greatly appreciate and respect such ability that can merge well-chosen words and inspired tunes into an artistic musical experience capable of moving the soul, whether to tears or to laughter and joy, to outrage and action, or to that heartfelt experience which is most enduring and holy of all, love.

I am genuinely delighted to be a part of this humble show featuring two of my favourite songwriters from the Canadian Prairies. Their talent, both individually and collectively, is nothing short of awesome!

I first met Tom Wilson through bluegrass festival circles in the early 1990s and quickly became a fan of his stellar song writing, which seems to pour out of him as easily and naturally as breathing. If God ever needed a personal poet, Tom would be the guy for the job. His songs quickly find the heart of every matter. Over the years, and despite our great absences in communication and face time, which seldom jeopardizes the true friendship of kindred souls anyway, we have become keen friends. To this day, in my opinion, Tom is one of the most gifted, yet (mostly) unheralded songwriters ever to come out of our part of the world.

I smile every time I watch Stewart MacDougall perform. If ever there was a guy so utterly at home, so unfazed by the noise and at peace with his chosen career – one that has disillusioned many an otherwise aspiring artistic soul – it is Stewart. After 30 years in the trenches, Stewart doggedly continues to blaze a trail for western Canada's songwriters, going it alone when so inspired, or teaming with such icons as Alberta's eternal cowboy, Ian Tyson, to craft a vivid portrait of some fundamental element of life on the Prairies. At the end of the age, when the ultimate lexicon of Alberta country music is declared, Stewart's name will be there. I've admired Stewart's talent since his early days with the Great Western Orchestra, and now here we are performing together. How cool is that!

Stewart, a long-time band leader in his own right, was instrumental in inviting Thom Moon into the ensemble, the two of them having shared many stages and recordings over the years. Thom is the first-call drummer around these parts, so I am delighted that he could join us!

Finally, I am so pleased that my long-time bluegrass pal, Byron Myhre, agreed to be a part of our modest little troupe. During our 18-year run together in Jerusalem Ridge, a ground-breaking band that introduced numerous western Canadians to the sounds of southern Appalachian music, Byron's instrumental talent and versatility were consistently mind-blowing. I couldn't ask for a better musical "color commentator" in this endeavour.

We hope you enjoy our show!

Keith Burgess
Producer, **Songs from the Northern Range**