

Songs from the Northern Range



T.A. Wilson & Stewart MacDougall

Byron Myhre & Keith Burgess

About the Production

“The Harvest Dance,” “Rockies in the Rain,” “Don’t Be Afraid of the Dark,” “Frankie,” “The Saskatoon Blues,” “On The Radio,” “Wind in the Wire,” “Come Away,” “Angel of The Mainline,” “Face in the Mirror,” “Buffalo Ground,” “Cactus Swing” – the list goes on. As individual songwriters, **T.A. 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! 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.

“It’s been a real pleasure to work with Keith and Byron 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: “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.”

Musical heritage also factors strongly in the program’s repertoire.

Fiddler **Byron Myhre** (vocal, fiddle, mandolin), a second-generation old-time fiddle champion and bluegrass fiddler, follows in the footsteps of his well-known father, Alfie Myhre. “Junior” Myhre 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.

For his part, **Keith Burgess** (vocal, upright bass), the show’s producer, is delighted to resurrect some old family ties to making music on the Prairies. “During the Dirty ’30s, my great-grandfather Angus Campbell and my grandparents played in dance bands around rural Saskatchewan to help make a living during some very tough times. Angus played fiddle, my grandma played piano, and my grandpa, a life-time roamer who drifted into the Weyburn area from a sod hut in Montana, joined in on guitar and tenor banjo. Given the current economic picture, it feels like *déjà vu* all over again! But this is a very contemporary production, and there is something very familiar and comforting about this music,” says Burgess.

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

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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 T.A. "Tom" Wilson and Alberta's Stewart MacDougall. Tom and Stewart are joined by bluegrass pals Byron Myhre and Keith Burgess of Jerusalem Ridge fame on a colourful, fun and endearing musical journey through the Canadian heartland, featuring Wilson's and MacDougall's all-time best-loved tunes.

T.A. "Tom" Wilson



VIVID CONTEMPORARY PRAIRIE IMAGES and classic themes of love, heartaches and highways are etched in the memorable songs of West Virginia native T.A. Wilson, who now makes his home on the blustery shores of Saskatchewan's mighty Lake Diefenbaker. A prolific, passionate songwriter, over the past two decades Tom has recorded two albums, *Blue Sky Day* and *On The Radio*, and was a featured artist on *CoalDust Grins: Portraits of Canadian Coal Miners* by acclaimed photographer Lawrence Christmas. Tom has toured western Canada and the southern U.S., frequently playing cordial host in songwriter circles. The former well-known proprietor of The Rosebud Café and insightful Rosebud Radio Hour deejay, Tom has appeared on stage and on radio with Vinyl Café's Stuart MacLean and with a multitude of Canadian roots music performers.

Stewart MacDougall



FOR OVER 25 YEARS, Stewart MacDougall 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 and a number of others including country star Randy Travis. Stewart's extensive and compelling discography includes three solo albums, *Gathering Time*, *heresay* and *Ghost Trains*. Stewart continues to perform with several musical projects, including the highly-successful *The Gift: A Tribute to Ian Tyson*, which features performances by various Tyson alumni and admirers. Stewart co-penned the title track for Tyson's most recent album, *Yellowstone to Yellowhead 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 is frequently sought after as a session player and sideman, having recorded with a wide range of roots and folk music artists, from well-known blues guitarist Eric Bibb, to Alberta folk songstress Maria Dunn, to bluegrass mandolin great John Reischman. 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. When he is not performing, Byron is the proprietor of Myhre's Music, a thriving acoustic-oriented musical instrument store in metro Edmonton, where he lives with his wife and four very active children.

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 groundbreaking run as one of the most successful bluegrass bands ever to emerge in 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 executive producer for the highly successful *Fire on the Mountain: A Bluegrass Music Experience* bluegrass-goes-to-the-symphony production. In addition to playing bass and guitar, Keith continues to serve as a well-regarded arts consultant and advisor to up-and-coming Canadian artists.

