

The Station Coffee House & Gallery Presents
SUNDAY ROOTS REVIVAL



a modest newsletter
#1 November 2010

Greetings all,

I thought I'd do a bit of a newsletter, about stuff upcoming; and perhaps expound on what I'm trying to do with this series, with Mike & Linda Tutt's support.

I've had two primary aims. One was to allow Brantford audiences to discover that a Sunday afternoon listening to live music is a darn fine way to spend one's time; and moreover that it is worth paying something for it. Secondly, I've been hoping was to introduce some of the many fine performers and songwriters in the region that often don't have a forum because they don't fit into a 'Top 40' or 'idol' format.

What has astonished and pleased me has been the response from many of the performers who have agreed to grace our stage. In many cases, they have been full-time professionals who would not normally accept engagements that pay 'on spec'. In all cases, the quality has been professional.

The reasons for this have varied. In some cases, personal friendships have been a factor. There's also the venue itself – cozy, funky, friendly and supportive. Even greater is knowing that they're coming into an environment where the audience is going to be listening to what they have to present – it's hard to imagine what that can mean to a musician. For that aspect, you - the audience – must receive all the credit.

The series is fully booked for the rest of this year. Here's a bit of a rundown of what's planned:

Oct 31 Tia McGraff (<http://www.tiamcgraff.com/>)

This one has come and gone this past Sunday, of course, but I wanted to comment anyway. Tia has spent a lot of time in Nashville, but I just became aware of her when she returned to her Port Dover home town about 3 years back. For one reason or another I haven't had an opportunity to catch up with her in a live situation until now.

It was well worth the wait. There's some very strong songwriting in this lady's soul. "Cold as Steel" is a very personal song she'd been reluctant to record on her new album. Glad she did; it reaches right into the depths of your heart.

And this is another performer who's expressed an interest in returning. It might be in the Sunday series (her presentation with partner Tommy Parham was very strong) or we might do it at another time as a ticketed event with her full band. Or both. Keep an eye out.

Nov 7 Lionel Lodge & John Loucks (<http://lionellodge.eu>)

Coming up in a couple of days. Once in a while I'll take a leap of faith and book a performer I'm not overly familiar with. In this case, I'm familiar with John Loucks who's doing back-up, but not so familiar with Lionel.

Very interesting stuff on his website; 10 CDs, a 15-year sojourn in Europe, where he's quite well-known. Capsule description of his style: "Gypsy folk-rock". He himself is described as combining "Waits, Dylan, Springsteen and a healthy slice of gypsy swagger".

I am greatly intrigued and looking forward to this. Hope you'll join us.

Nov 14 The Banned Joes (Grass Tax) (<http://radio3.cbc.ca/#/bands/THE-BANNED-JOES>)

What can I say? – we're gonna have a Bluegrass Sunday. Yee-HAH!

Nov 21 Shananigans (<http://shananigans.ca/>)

First heard these folks in September where they did a couple of numbers at the Black Walnut Folk Club in Kitchener, and immediately approached them about the Station. Hearing a feature set at the Hamilton Folk Club just confirmed we had to have 'em. Sort of high energy Celtic / east coast. Maybe a bit of Poor Aengus or Great Big Sea in the influences?

Nov 28 Kim Koren (<http://www.myspace.com/kimkoren>)

Kim is a songwriter from Dundas who performs with able backing from husband Frank Koren. She's toured in Europe and over much of North America. Kim's 3rd CD 'Raven Heart' has just been released; she has won a People's Choice Award and has nominations for this years Hamilton Music Award.

Dec 5 Ginger St James (<http://www.gingerstjames.com/>)

I am personally very pleased (gonna hurt myself patting myself on the back like this) that Ginger's first Brantford appearance was a very early Roots show. She's played other (rowdier) venues in Brantford since, and I'm thrilled that she's coming back to us. She is the most amazing combination of sweet and sassy. Major stardom is a distinct possibility for this lady. Get yourselves out for a slightly and delightfully rude afternoon!

Dec 12 Ian Reid (<http://www.myspace.com/ianreidsongs>)

Ian has become a favourite at the Station; this will be his third Roots Revival, not counting his well-received appearance at our Roots 'n' Rails Festival. Currently back in his hometown of Rockwood after extensive time in Korea (and yes, he can sing a love ballad in Korean); Ian combines insightful songwriting and a delicate guitar style.

So there was Ian, playing a number with his ukelele, when a train pulled in to the station. He just hunkered up closer to the mic and took the train on! Can't say he won, but I don't think he lost either. Oh, one thing Ian – you looked darn scary in that Hallowe'en photo done up as superhero Wolverine. Fer gawd's sake, take the claws off before you start playing the uke!

Dec 19 Al Parrish (<http://alparrish.ca/>) (\$10 suggestion)

Al had toured the world as bassist with the group Tanglefoot (<http://www.tanglefootmusic.com/>). After many successful years the group has retired and Al is embarking on a solo career. A cappella, with guitar or bass fiddle and a thunderous voice. Catch him now, before he get away on that European solo tour.

There's another subject that I think it's time to discuss, and that is the Roots Revival pricing policy. Short version – DON'T PANIC!

This series is, and shall remain, a pay-what-you-can event so long as I'm with it. There's been far too many times when I've wanted to attend something, and just haven't been able to; and I hate to think of others in that situation.

What I am trying to suggest is that there is very real value here – bargain value in fact; and that it's a reasonable thing to suggest the performers who are sharing their hearts with you are well worth a little more.

So starting in the new year, you'll see the donation jar with a suggestion of \$8 to \$10. Please remember: it's still pay-what-you-can. Pay as you can afford, or as you feel it's worth *to you*. If \$5 is what you've been putting in, and that's what you're comfortable with, then continue. If you do agree that a bit more is justified, toss that along as well.

Songwriters give words to many of the thoughts and feelings we often find it hard to express. And the performers who deliver them help us touch our own hearts.

And that, my friends, is truly priceless.

And here endeth the sermon! Be well . . .

Jeremiah