

Media Release:

The Home County Folk League presents A Tribute to Bruce Cockburn

featuring Jason Fowler, Andy Sheppard, Jennifer 'Red' Thorpe and Catherine McInnes

8:00 pm Friday May 15 doors at 7:00 pm

at The Aeolian 795 Dundas St E. at Rectory

Home County Folk League's Annual Fundraising Concert and Silent Auction

\$20 advance \$25 at the door

Advance tickets available (cash only) at Grooves, L'Atelier Grigorian & The Village Idiot.

Visa, MC debit at The Aeolian Box Office 672 7950 or online at www.aeolianhall.ca

This third annual tribute concert event follows the successful tributes to Canadian folk icons Gordon Lightfoot in 2007 and Joni Mitchell in 2008. Songs include **Pacing The Cage**, **Wondering Where The Lions Are**, **Coldest Night Of The Year**, **Mama Just Wants To Barrelhouse**, **Lovers In A Dangerous Time**, **All The Diamonds In The World**, **One Day I Walk**, **Festival of Friends**, **Waiting For A Miracle** and more.

Artistic Director Catherine McInnes says "I've assembled my dream team of Canadian guitarists for this Cockburn Tribute show; Jason Fowler and Andy Sheppard from Toronto. Jason and I joke that we are battling it out as contenders for the world's biggest Bruce Cockburn fan, but Jason clearly has an edge, being a guitarist with technical and musical skills on par with Cockburn. And as a singer, he even sounds like Cockburn. Jason has previously put together his own Bruce Cockburn tribute show at Hugh's Room in Toronto"

The Home County Folk League presents its 36th annual free festival July 17-19 in Victoria Park. Recently receiving recognition from Festival and Events Ontario as one of Ontario's Top 100 festivals, the theme this summer is 'Experience The Fusion'. An enhanced children's area, a new 'Next Generation' Stage featuring acts such as The Sadies, Elliott Brood and London's own Andy Magoffin & Fraser, as well as a new Fusion Stage, are planned for the 2009 festival. Community outreach programs are also in the works including Blues School with David Essig, Youthsongs with Katherine Wheatley and more TBA shortly.

more info at www.homecounty.ca

About the Performers:

Jason Fowler is a Toronto singer/songwriter, session guitarist and producer. He has released 5 solo albums under his own name since 1995. His latest recording, **Buckets Of Rain**, was released in 2009. It was recorded at his home studio and is a collection of his favorite songs that he's been singing for most of his life; songs by Mississippi John Hurt, Blind Blake, Doc Watson, Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie, John Prine, Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLauchlan, Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Waits and Hoyt Axton

A two-time winner at the Walnut Valley National Guitar Championships in both the Fingerpicking (1997) and Flatpicking (2000) categories, Jason is widely acknowledged as one of Canada's premier guitarists. He holds a degree in Classical Guitar Performance from McGill University and was the inaugural winner of the OCFE (Ontario Council of Folk Festivals) Instrumental Composition of the Year Award in 2004.

He is a consummate musician with an extraordinary command of musical styles from folk, country and bluegrass, to blues, rock, jazz and classical. Jason has appeared on over 100 recordings by artists as diverse as Ian Tamblyn, Oliver Schroer, Amy Sky, Shlomo Simcha, Evalyn Parry, Colleen Peterson, David Bradstreet, Susan Crowe, Brent Titcomb, Ken Perlman and Teresa Doyle. He has performed with April Verch, Marc Jordan, Lawrence Gowan, Susan Aglukark, The Cottars, Quartette, Nana Mouskouri, Murray McLauchlan, Ember Swift, Madviolet, and many more from the Canadian roots music scene.

He was the 2003 recipient of the CEC McEachern Porcupine Award for Outstanding Musical Accompanist in his hometown of Toronto. The Porcupine Awards are handed out each year by Steve Fruitman of CIUT Radio as a way to shine some light on those who deserve to be noted for their work at enshrining Canadian folklore into the sub-conscious realm. Fruitman said this of Jason's guitar accompaniment: "His guitars are like lungs breathing airs of brilliance behind a variety of foregrounds."

Since 2001 he has toured extensively with renowned Irish Tenor John McDermott. He is also a charter member of Toronto violinist Anne Lindsay's group along with bass whiz David Woodhead and drummer Al Cross.

CD Reviews:

The Toronto Star's Greg Quill stated "The guitarist rips off some astonishing licks in the pursuit of melodic enrichment, never just for show. This is as fine as acoustic guitar gets."

The Vancouver Province's John McLaughlin wrote "A guitarist with flashes of brilliance on a par with Cooder, Doc Watson and Tony Rice. A great find."

Penguin Eggs, Canada's roots music magazine glowed, "...a nicely crafted CD, with some exquisite guitar work...Fowler's depth as a songwriter and instrumentalist is evident; there is nothing temporary about Temporary Ground."

www.jasonfowler.ca

Andy Sheppard

It's all about contrasts for Andy Sheppard. He coaxes brave new sounds from a converted '69 Martin steel guitar and a late-model laptop. He smashes folk and world music together with found sounds and stompbox loops. He sings out lyrics of a childhood in tobacco country and stirs them together with world-wandering stories from Africa and Asia. His latest live album (released October '08) is a slide guitar manifesto - by turns delicate and reckless, sweet but heavy on the beat. Songs tinged with the gentlemanly humour and global twang of Ry Cooder, and the sparkling desperation of Sufjan Stevens. Oil and water.

Andy Sheppard won the 2006 Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award. He was a finalist in the 2008 Mountain Stage New Song Competition. He was on tour in the UK and across Canada in 2008 with three other world-class guitarists as part of [International Guitar Night](#).

"a strong but nuanced sense of pulse and a gift for lovely melodies"
Guitar Player Magazine

"a tremendous guitarist"
Matt Galloway - CBC Radio, Toronto.

"a mellifluous guitarist whose influences run the gamut from folk to blues to bluegrass, to sounds from Brazil, Africa, and the South Pacific"
John Kendle - Uptown Magazine, Winnipeg

"a true instrumental virtuoso"
Jeff Robson - UMFH Radio, Winnipeg

"a jaw-droppingly great show - stunning solo work"
Dominic Lloyd - West End Cultural Centre, Winnipeg

www.andysheppard.com

Jennifer 'Red Thorpe is a well known London chanteuse who loves to create jazzy-bluesy renditions of songs of Canadian roots icons.

Catherine McInnes is the the Artistic Director of Home County Folk Festival and an award-winning local singer-songwriter and jazz singer.

www.sonicbids.com/CatherineMcInnes