

A History of the Ottawa Folk Festival

by Joyce MacPhee

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Introduction

The **Ottawa Folk Festival** has been a spectacular success since its inception in 1994. The festival was established to showcase Canada's folk traditions through music, dance, storytelling and crafts. It has grown from a vision to "one of the premier North American events of its kind", according to Allan Wigney of *X Press*. Ottawa is home to many festivals. The Ottawa Folk Festival is known for its relaxed atmosphere, enthusiastic grassroots following and loyal volunteer contingent. What a great way to enjoy some of the best folk music offered in the country!

The festival was initially called the **CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival** and was founded by **Max Wallace** and **Chris White**. Wallace, who was then the station manager of community radio station CKCU, teamed up with White, a performing songwriter. They were joined by an enthusiastic organizing committee and an army of volunteers who helped to turn their vision into reality. The festival was launched with a magical day of entertainment on Victoria Island. The next year the festival moved to Britannia Park, where it has flourished ever since. In 1997, the festival became a not-for-profit, charitable organization, but kept "CKCU" as part of its logo until 2006.

The inspiration for the Ottawa Folk Festival dates back many years. In 1959, the iconic coffee house **Le Hibou** opened its doors and until 1975 showcased many folk legends, including Canadians Joni Mitchell and Bruce Cockburn and Americans John Prine and Kris Kristofferson. In 1976, the **Ottawa Folklore Centre** opened as a folk music emporium and has served the community as a combination retail store and music educational centre ever since. The **Festival for the Folks**, a major Canadian music festival, was launched the same year and ran until 1979. After the Festival for the Folks ended, Ottawa continued to be a major centre for folk music. "Canadian Spaces", the longest-running Canadian folk radio show, was launched in 1980. The following year, **Rasputin's**, one of Canada's finest folk venues, opened its doors. After thriving for 27 years, sadly the club closed in 2008 following a fire. Fortunately, the spirit of Rasputin's lives on in house concerts and concerts in the community.

Thanks to the continuing generous support of **sponsors, granters, partners, donors, dedicated staff and volunteers**, the Ottawa Folk Festival operates year-round as a vibrant cultural and community organization.

A special thanks goes to **Pam Marjerrison** and **Chris White**, who carried out many careful reviews of this history over the years, as well as to **Jake Morrison**, who spent a great deal of effort in making the photos available in digital format.

Please contact [me](#) if you have any information you would like added, or if you have comments regarding possible inaccuracies in this history. See you at the next **Ottawa Folk Festival!**

[Joyce MacPhee](#)

Ottawa Folk Festival Timeline

1. 1994

- First Ottawa Folk Festival held on Victoria Island
- Cofounded by Executive Director Max Wallace and Artistic Director Chris White
- One-day volunteer-driven festival a success despite weather challenges
- Six daytime stages, one evening stage sets pattern
- Support from CKCU, Ottawa Folklore Centre, Rasputin's Folk Café, Rogers Television and dedicated organizing committee members

2. 1995

- Festival moves to Britannia Park and extends to two days
- The first Helen Verger Award is presented
- Concert series launched thanks to Library and Archives partnership
- Festival of the Friends Program is launched

3. 1996

- Gene Swimmer comes aboard as Executive Director
- Festival expands to three days
- Financial crisis at CKCU leads to separate incorporation of festival

4. 1997

- Festival attains charitable status
- Bruce Cockburn has successful homecoming; performs solo and in the reunion of The Children
- First Festival Weekend Choir led by Andy Rush
- In early December, a financial crisis is averted with help of proceeds from Arlo Guthrie Benefit Concert, and Silent Auction organized by Carol Silcoff
- *FolkBits* e-mail bulletin launched by Brian Silcoff on November 26

5. 1998

- After-hours concerts begins at Luxor Hotel
- Radio and television broadcasts are made from the festival

6. 1999

- First sponsored stages are successful

7. 2000

- Acts from every province are featured
- NAC/Fourth Stage partnership launches second concert series

8. 2001

- Festival has its first sold out concert with John Prine

9. 2002

- First year of CUPE sponsorship/partnership
- Green initiatives including re-usable plates are introduced

10. 2003

- Tenth anniversary of the festival
- Festival expands to four days
- CUPE EnviroTent is created

11. 2004

- Emphasis is on youth acts including Weakerthans, Feist, and Broken Social Scene
- Galaxie and One Fret Less Awards are introduced
- Videocassette released for sale titled “Inspiration”, featuring performers from the tenth anniversary of the festival (produced by Chris White in conjunction with Rogers Television) and “Ten Years of Uninterrupted Folk”, a documentary celebrating the tenth anniversary of the festival (written, produced and directed by Joyce MacPhee in conjunction with Rogers Television)

12. 2005

- Rolling Stones concert leads to change of festival dates to third week in August

13. 2006

- CUPE sponsorship sparks sponsorship
- Thursday night programming held in downtown venues

14. 2007

- Tamara Kater joins festival as Executive Director
- Major site re-design puts volunteers and artists at centre of site
- More green initiatives and connections to community organizations are created
- Arthur II heads participatory mural project
- GCTC Acoustic Waves series is revived to great acclaim

15. 2008

- Fifteenth anniversary of festival
- Paid staff includes executive director, artistic director, volunteer/outreach manager/development manager
- New governance approach and strategic plan are adopted; board of directors is expanded
- New office increases efficiency
- More educational and outreach initiatives begin

Source: Roberta Huebener

Year 1 (1994)

The Festival Is Launched

Photos

In 1994, after CKCU Station Manager **Max Wallace** wrote a brief article in the program guide *Trans FM* about the possibility of starting up the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, he was delighted with the response. Many eager volunteers came forward to offer their services. Wallace worked closely with Chris White and a strong volunteer contingent to bring the project to fruition. After ten months of preparation, the first annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival was held on Victoria Island. This idyllic setting nestled between Ottawa and Hull proved to be the perfect spot for a small festival. The one-day event ran from noon to midnight on August 28, 1994 and included afternoon theme stages and evening concerts. The festival has maintained this basic structure.

The historic **Victoria Island** site provided an intimate performance space in a natural setting, and offered panoramic views of the Ottawa River, the Parliament Buildings, and other National Capital Area landmarks. The hospitality, storytelling and craft areas were housed in the picturesque ruins of the historic **Carbide Building**.

If the verdant island setting was idyllic, the lineup was equally impressive for a modest event operating on a shoestring budget. In the weeks leading up to the festival, an enormous amount of excitement and publicity was generated by the media when it was announced that **David Wiffen** would appear. Although the morning of the festival dawned grey, windy and rainy, the clouds parted and the evening main stage performances commenced beneath the canopy of a cloudless sky. **Valdy, David Wiffen, Lynn Miles, Ian Tamblyn, Dario Domingues, The Bird Sisters, Penny Lang** and **Seventh Fire** performed on the main stage.

Festival goers were greeted at the entrance gate by the African-inspired drumming of **Kebba Jobateh** and his drumming circle. The afternoon workshops proved popular, taking place simultaneously on five stages offering the audience a wide variety of musical styles and themes to choose from. Over a hundred musicians appeared throughout the day.

Local artists at the festival included **Alex Sinclair, Willie Dunn, Alex Houghton, Nathan Curry, Sneezy Waters, Guy Del Villano, Andrea Karam** and **Bob Stark**. The workshops included the themes of First Nations, bluegrass, blues, protest, humorous, acoustic guitar, international, women's voices and vocal harmonies.

Two popular showcases celebrating the area's traditional folk heritage included the **Ottawa Valley Fiddling and Stepdancing Stage** and a lively **Ceilidh** (Celtic jamboree). **Gina Gilchrist**, daughter of legendary stepdance champion Donnie Gilchrist, appeared with some of her stepdance students. Ottawa Valley musicians including veteran fiddler **Wilf Gillis** accompanied the dancers. A lively ceilidh was hosted by **Ian Robb** of **Friends of Fiddlers' Green** and **Finest Kind**, who were joined by a number of local musicians performing Celtic and Celtic-inspired material.

For pure nostalgia, it was hard to beat the three tribute stages: the **Stan Rogers Stage**, the **Le Hibou Stage**, and the **Woodstock Stage**. Ian Robb hosted more than a dozen local musicians who performed their favourite Stan Rogers songs. The popular Le Hibou Stage featured artists who had appeared at the legendary Ottawa club such as **Valdy**, **David Wiffen**, **Sandy Crawley** and **Bonnie Bradley**. When the Woodstock Stage was halted by a sudden downpour, **Valdy** led the audience in an impromptu rendition of *Rain, Rain Go Away*, with the desired positive results.

Talented but not yet seasoned musicians had the opportunity to appear on the **Discovery Stage**. **Acoustic Moon**, a group of high school students, were among the youngest performers. **Writer's Bloc**, a local songwriting group, also held a session on this stage.

The evening concert featured a triumphant return to the stage by **David Wiffen**, who was greeted by a thunderous standing ovation. The excitement continued with an energetic and polished set by **Valdy**, who proved he had not forgotten his Ottawa hometown roots.

Valdy was presented with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his valuable contribution to Canadian folk music. This award was designed by **Arthur McGregor**, co-owner of the **Ottawa Folklore Centre**. It was constructed from a 1940s handmade guitar by master builder **Edward Dick**. The evening wound down with a singalong around the bonfire, where fire juggler **Tawney Ross** gave a mesmerizing performance.

The main stage emcees, **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy**, played an important role in the festival. The two enjoy a special chemistry onstage and their repartee is an important part of the main stage shows. Chopper provides the English introductions while Karen provides the French commentary.

Chopper McKinnon has been a vital force on the Ottawa music scene since the 1970s. His many accomplishments include hosting *Canadian Spaces*, the longest running folk show on Canadian community radio. *Canadian Spaces* first took to the airwaves of CKCU in 1980 and has attracted a loyal following of "Space Cadets". Chopper also hosts the **CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Benefit Concert Series**, and the **Acoustic Waves** concert series.

Karen Flanagan McCarthy is a freelance writer and broadcaster whose work has been heard on CBC Radio programs including *Morningside*, *Gabereau*, *Between the Covers*, and *All in a Day*. She appears frequently as an emcee at local music and charitable events.

Year 2 (1995)

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Finds a New Home

Photos

Buoyed by the initial success of the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival in 1994, the festival organizers decided to expand to a two-day format. Out of respect for the native occupation of Victoria Island by Algonquin Indians, the festival was moved to a new location. The natural choice was **Britannia Park**, a beautiful west-end site overlooking the Ottawa River. Britannia Park was also the site of the **Festival for the Folks** from 1977 to 1979. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

Sunshine sparkling like a million diamonds on the water in Britannia Bay, a warm summer rain, a glowing pastel sunset, a meteor crossing a dark Ontario sky. All of these natural elements helped to create an enchanting atmosphere at the **second annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival** held August 26 to 27, 1995. The festival exceeded all expectations with double the attendance of the previous year, and garnered rave reviews from critics and the community alike. “If a festival can be measured in moments of music magic, the second annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival was a resounding success,” enthused **Lynn Saxberg** of the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Ottawa’s fine folk tradition was celebrated with music, dance, and storytelling. There was plenty to celebrate. Fifteenth anniversary theme stages paid tribute to two Ottawa institutions: **Canadian Spaces**, the oldest Canadian folk music program on community radio; and the folk club **Rasputin’s**. The **Le Hibou Deja Vu** stage tipped the hat to Canada’s longest running coffeehouse and featured several prominent artists who performed there.

Ottawa Valley fiddling, stepdancing and singing were showcased during three sessions, including a tribute to the late **Mac Beattie**. The **Ottawa Songwriters** session hosted talented local performers, as did the songwriting group **Writer’s Bloc**. On both days, Ottawa storytellers wove magical tales for their attentive audiences. The **Ottawa Citizen Family Area** kept kids busy all weekend long with a variety of daytime activities, crafts, costumes and entertainment, including facepainting and great performers.

The afternoon stages featured **Celtic, country, bluegrass, gospel and world music**. There were also afternoon sessions highlighting **instrumental music**, as well as sessions exploring the **potential of the human voice** and our **connections to the natural world**. A wonderful blend of familiar and new musicians performed 30-minute sets on the **Showcase Stage**. The lineup for the acoustic guitar theme stage was hard to beat: **Don Ross, Stephen Fearing, Alex Houghton, Lynn Miles** and **Alan Marsden**.

Audience participation was an important element of the festival. Kids clapped and sang along with **Eric Nagler** at a Saturday afternoon concert, while families sashayed around the hall during a traditional contra dance on Sunday afternoon. The **Arrogant Worms** were successful in getting adults and children alike to imitate a chomping alligator, with hysterical results.

Hundreds of stargazers were on hand Sunday afternoon to witness the **Swingin' on a Star** stage. **Murray McLauchlan** performed along with the other stellar artists who had appeared on his national CBC Radio show from 1989 to 1994 including **Colleen Peterson, Lynn Miles,** and **David Wiffen**. The sweethearts of the festival proved to be **Malaika**, a four-woman acoustic harmony group that specializes in a capella music performed in several different languages.

As if by cue, a meteor streaked across the sky during a passionate encore by guitarist **Don Ross**. The most poignant moment of the festival was when Murray McLauchlan was presented with the first **Helen Verger Award** for his contributions to Canadian folk music. The award was instituted to honour the memory of the late **Helen Verger**, co-owner of Rasputin's coffeehouse, mother of **Dean Verger**, and a friend to many in the Ottawa folk community. Helen's generosity and love of music embodies the spirit of the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, and the award is a fitting tribute to a woman who did much to foster the local folk scene.

Finally, the crowd bid adieu to CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Director **Max Wallace**, who left his job as station manager to pursue writing opportunities in Montreal. The baton was passed into the capable hands of **Gene Swimmer**, an avid folk fan and a professor in the School of Public Administration at Carleton University.

Year 3 (1996)

A Three-Day Festival at Britannia!

Photos

In 1996, the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival flourished under the direction of **Gene Swimmer** and artistic director **Chris White**. The festival made another natural progression, and expanded to three days of folk at Britannia Park (August 23 to 25). It continued to offer an eclectic range of performers and styles. The mainstage performers included **Quartette, Bert Jansch, Lynn Miles, Moxy Fruvous, Thomas Handy Trio, Laura Smith, Lennie Gallant, Danielle Martineau and Rockabyou**, and **Malaika**. The year also marked the twentieth anniversary of the **Ottawa Folklore Centre**. **The Helen Verger Award** was jointly presented to **Colleen Peterson** and **Sylvia Tyson** for their valuable contributions to Canadian folk music. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

Benefit Concert Series

The 1995/1996 **Benefit Concert Series** held at the National Library of Canada featured the following performers.

Dec.16: **Don Ross** (with special guests **Finest Kind**)

Feb. 24: **Imaginary Heaven** (with special guest **Karen Leslie Hall**)

April 6: **Connie Kaldor** (with special guest **Night Sun**)

May 4: **Colleen Peterson** and **Willie P. Bennett** Double Bill

Friday, August 23

The Friday evening **Main Stage** opened with **Les Hardis Moussailons**, an eclectic group of French-language performers with diverse influences: “rock, punk, flamenco and Latino thrown in a blender at high speed”. Montreal’s first lady of folk, **Penny Lang**, next graced the stage, followed by the exotic Latin American rhythms of **Miguel Fenton**. Songstress extraordinaire **Lynn Miles** performed to an appreciative crowd. Then the wild and wacky group **Moxy Fruvous** exploded onto the stage. The evening of folk under the stars ended with the swirling sounds of **Orealis**, a Montreal-based Celtic band.

Saturday, August 24

The Saturday daytime entertainment was packed with talent. On the **Main Stage** you could choose from a country session hosted by **Lonesome Paul**, a bluegrass session hosted by **Ron Moores**, or a king-size performance of the **Purple Dragon Puppet Troupe**. For many, the highlight was the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Tribute**, tipping the hat to the centre’s twentieth anniversary. Participants included **Alex Houghton, Lynn Miles, Ian Robb, James Stephens** and **Bob Stark**.

Down by the water on the **Point Stage**, you could enjoy children’s entertainment with **June and Kathy**; a **Nortel Showcase** with the **Miguel Fenton Band**; a world beat session hosted by **Dario Domingues**; and an **Ottawa Folklore Centre** session on how to play the harmonica.

In the cool confines of the **Inside Stage**, the audience sampled a guitar session with **Alan Marsden, Alex Houghton, Bert Jansch** and **Allan Gorman**. A session on toe-tappin' tunes hosted by **Marion Linton** set the atmosphere for the participatory dance sessions that followed. **Catherine Burns** hosted a contra dance with musical accompaniment provided by **The Old Sod Band**. **Danielle Martineau** hosted the lively **Dansez!** session with **Rockabayou**.

The **Red Stage** was a showcase for singer/songwriters. The **All in the Family** session was hosted by the **Bovine Sisters** and included members of six families. The fabulous **Laura Smith** and **George Antoniak** were featured in a **Nortel Showcase**, while the **Heart and Soul** session hosted by **Beth Ferguson** featured **Bert Jansch** and **Penny Lang**. The session **See What I Say** featured the music and stories of **Malaika, Jennifer Cayley**, and **Ruth and Brian Bowen**. **Deborah Herr** provided beautiful sign language interpretation combined with dance.

The **Green Stage** packed a lot of entertainment into one afternoon. The **Le Hibou Revisited** session was one of the most popular of the weekend. Host **Richard Patterson** welcomed **Sylvia Tyson, Colleen Peterson, Penny Lang** and **Bob Stark** for an hour of recalling the glory days of the legendary Ottawa coffeehouse, **Le Hibou**. The **Generation F** session showcased a younger generation of folk artists. **Bob Stark** hosted the **Writers are a Strange Breed** session, exploring the art of songwriting. Two showcases featured **Doug Reansbury** and **Orealis**.

Diversity was the theme on Saturday evening. The **Main Stage** opened with native singer/songwriter **Willie Dunn**, and continued with the bluegrass-fusion quartet **The Emory Lester Set**. **Malaika**, a four-woman a capella group that performs music from around the world, was followed by the **Thomas Handy Trio**. The trio combines a heady combination of jazz and East Indian rhythms to create music with an hypnotic effect. Up next was **Quartette**, a four-woman group that featured the considerable talents of **Colleen Peterson, Sylvia Tyson, Cindy Church** and **Caitlin Hanford**. Sadly, it would be one of Colleen Peterson's last performances. She passed away barely six weeks later. British guitar legend **Bert Jansch** and the energetic **Danielle Martineau and Rockabayou** rounded out the eclectic evening.

Sunday, August 25

What better time to enjoy some gospel music than on Sunday morning? Host **Andrea Karam** introduced **John Steele; Michelle Sweeney**, a woman with a wonderfully powerful voice; and the many members of **Voices of Praise**, an Ottawa gospel ensemble. Other early birds were treated to devotional music from the **Ottawa Shape Note Chorus**, in a session hosted by **Shelley Posen**.

Traditions old and new could be found on the daytime **Main Stage** on Sunday. A **ceilidh** hosted by **Ian Robb** boasted the likes of **Ann Downey, Shelley Posen, Janet Munson, James Stephens, Wilf Gillis** and **Dan Schryer**. Meanwhile, the **New Traditions** session hosted by **Ann Downey** featured **Jimmy George, The Toasted Westerns** and **Night Sun**. **Stepdance Heaven** was the title of a toe-tappin' session featuring the **Ottawa Valley Dancers**. The **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert** featured **The Dinosaur Show with Kirk & Magoo**.

The children's entertainment continued at the **Point Stage** with concerts by **Magoo** and **Tom Plant**. The session **Music from the Isles** and a session on how to play the pennywhistle reflected

a traditional theme. The session **In the Groove**, hosted by **Suzie Vinnick**, explored the art of grooving. **Cabin Fever**, one of the winners of the festival **Last Chance Saloon** competition, strutted their stuff out at the **Point Stage**.

For those who took refuge in the air-conditioned comfort of the **Inside Stage**, there was plenty to see and do. A lively square dance was hosted by **Fred Weihs**, with musical accompaniment by **Paddies on the Tundra**. The **Words and Music** session hosted by **Alrick Huebener** featured **SugarBeat**, **thom barker** and **Aaron Zaadich**. More words and music were examined in the **Songs from the Heart** session featuring **Jody Benjamin**, **Lucie Blue Tremblay**, **Laura Smith** and **Lee Hayes**. Nortel showcases presented performances by **Night Sun**, and **Gerry Griffin & Dario Domingues**.

The **Red Stage** was in danger of bursting into flame during the **Fiddles on Fire** session featuring the talents of **Oliver Schroer**, **Janet Munson**, **Michael Ball**, **Pierre Schryer** and **Nathan Curry**. One of the highlights of the day was the **Maritime Stories & Songs** session hosted by **Shelley Posen** and featuring the talents of **Lennie Gallant**, **Kevin Head** and **Tom Lips**. More stories were shared during the **Ottawa Valley Stories & Songs** session hosted by **Gail Gavan**. Performers included **Cal Cummings**, **Gord McAlpine**, **Tri-Lys**, **Le Grand Portage**, and **Donna Stewart**. The daytime sessions ended with a Nortel showcase hosted by **Neema Mugala** featuring the **Sifa Choir**.

The **Green Stage** presented a session on blues music hosted by **Larry “The Bird” Mootham** and featuring **Rick Fines**, **Suzie Vinnick**, **Guy Del Villano** and **Vince Halfhide**. Festival goers could also listen to **Spirit Voices**, a session hosted by **Cliff Thomas**. **Willie Dunn**, **Stephen Augustine** and **Mary Carpenter** performed music and told stories that reflected their heritage. **Brenna Rivier** hosted a session called **Songs of Freedom**, with participants **Lennie Gallant**, **Lucie Blue Tremblay** and **Willie Dunn**. Two showcases featured the talents of **Steafan Hannigan** and **Jimmy George**.

The Sunday evening **Main Stage** opened with the fabulous sounds of the **Folk Festival Children’s Choir**. Celtic-inspired ensemble **Jimmy George** appeared next, followed by local favourites **Finest Kind**. This traditionally based trio consists of **Ian Robb**, **Shelley Posen** and **Ann Downey**. French-Canadian singer/songwriter **Lucie Blue Tremblay** performed a bilingual set. She was followed by **Suzie Vinnick** and **Rick Fines**. This duo combines the vocal talents of blues singer Suzie Vinnick with the guitar stylings of Rick Fines. The evening wound down with two superb East Coast performers: **Laura Smith** and **Lennie Gallant**. **Laura Smith** has been described simply as an actress who performs her own songs. **Lennie Gallant** is a native of P.E.I. who lives in Halifax. His music combines lyrics reflecting the struggles and dreams of real people with Acadian and Celtic influenced music.

Year 4 (1997)

Welcome Home Bruce!

Photos

The fourth CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, held from August 22 to 24 at Britannia Park, was a hit. In 1997 Bruce Cockburn returned to his hometown, much to the delight of the record crowds that gathered for his dynamic performances. Cockburn appeared at a main stage evening concert on the opening night of the festival. The next day he participated in the reunion of the famous sixties Ottawa group, **The Children**. The festival Main Stage lineup was particularly strong: **Lawrence Gowan, Shari Ulrich, Robert Paquette, The Arrogant Worms, Alpha Yaya Diallo, Melanie Doane, Tamarack, Cindy Church and Rebecca Campbell. Chopper McKinnon and Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

The year 1997 also marked the twentieth anniversary of the first folk festival to be held at Britannia Park. The **Festival for the Folks** was held at Britannia Park from 1977 to 1979. Perhaps the most poignant moment of the 1997 festival was a special ceremony in memory of the late **Colleen Peterson**, which was attended by some of her closest friends and many fans.

Festival Director **Gene Swimmer**, Artistic Director **Chris White** and the organizing committee worked harder than ever to put on the 1997 festival. The funding from major sponsor CKCU ended due to the community radio station's financial problems.

Benefit Concert Series

A tremendously successful **Benefit Concert Series** made the festival possible. The 1996/1997 benefit concert series included the following concerts held at the National Library of Canada.

Nov. 16: **Pamela Morgan**

Dec. 7, 8: **Arlo Guthrie**

March 6: **Laura Smith**

April 10: **Soweto Singers**

April 19: **Penny Lang, Georgette Fry**

May 30: **Moxy Fruvous**

The festival held its first **Silent Auction** during the intermission of the **Arlo Guthrie** concerts on Dec. 7 and 8. Thanks to **Carol Silcoff** and a team of volunteers, and the many generous donations from local artisans and businesses, the even was a huge success.

The **Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton**, the **Ontario Arts Council**, **Nortel**, the **Ottawa Citizen, Phase 2, Air Nova, CS CO-OP, Hershey, the SOCAN Foundation, the Luxor Hotel** and the **Glebe Loeb** also provided vital support to the festival.

Friday, August 22

There was a sense of eager anticipation in the air when the festival opened on Friday night, as the audience awaited the appearance of **Bruce Cockburn**. Performers including the female group

Travelling with Jane, festival favourite **Robert Paquette**, the zany **Arrogant Worms**, the fiery African-inspired **Alpha Yaya Diallo**, and another Ottawa native, singer **Rebecca Campbell**. Cockburn's polished and dynamic set was greeted with enormous enthusiasm by an appreciative hometown crowd. Although an international star in his own right, Cockburn made it clear he was enjoying a return to his roots. Cockburn was presented with the keys to the **City of Ottawa**, as well as the **Helen Verger Award** for his valuable contributions to Canadian folk music.

Saturday, August 23

The daytime entertainment on Saturday featured a potpourri of styles and subjects. Quite a buzz was generated by **The Children** and **Le Hibou** workshop hosted by Richard Patterson. The musical group of hopefuls that first banded together in 1965 included many who would make considerable contributions to the Canadian cultural scene: **Bruce Cockburn, David Wiffen, Richard Patterson, Sandy Crawley, Sneezey Waters, Neville Wells** and **Chris Anderson**. **The Children** often appeared at legendary folk venue **Le Hibou**.

Sessions focusing on the themes of passion and the lives of girls and women took place on the **Green Stage**. **Guitars are Us** was the amusing title for a session that showcased the many styles of this versatile instrument that is so prevalent in folk and roots music.

Participatory sessions abounded. The **Ottawa Folklore Centre** hosted a series of sessions encouraging people to sing along, or to play the slide guitar or harmonica. **Debbie McWatty Reid** hosted a session on how to **stepdance**, while **Kate McKay** encouraged everyone to **dance, dance, dance**. A **country dance** was presented by **Lonesome Paul and the Valley Ramblers** with **Jody Benjamin**. An enthusiastic group took part in the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Weekend Choir Practice**, hosted by **Andy Rush**.

The **Ottawa Citizen Family Area** was just the place to see juggling, magic shows, "kidsongs" with **Tom Plant** and stories with **Dean Verger**. Kids also ventured to the **Inside Stage** for a **Valdy for Kids** session.

The **Nortel Stage** featured a session highlighting the rhythms of Africa and a live version of the CKCU "old tyme" country program **The Back 40**; **Alex Sinclair** hosted an **Acoustic Waves** session featuring performers who had appeared in the longstanding folk/roots concert series. The **Red Stage** showcased double bills by **Robert Paquette** and **Lizanne Evely**; and **Shari Ulrich** and **Melisse Lafrance**; while **Cindy Church** appeared solo. The **Green Stage** offered double bills with **Bill Bourne and Bill Huggins**; **Joe Hall and Barb Matticacci**, as well as **Alpha Yaya Diallo** in concert. At the **Point Stage** you could go around the world in 30 minutes with **George Sapounidis!**

The evening mainstage performances opened with **Guy Davis**, an acoustic blues revivalist. Singer/songwriter and instrumentalist **Melanie Doane** was followed by a band she once belonged to: **Tamarack** of Guelph, Ont. The group is well known for its traditional arrangements that tell tales of the history of Canada. **Meryn Cadell** provided her own unique spin on contemporary life through music and the spoken word. The Montreal-based band **Zekuhl** had the crowd hopping with an eclectic set of African and Latin rhythms.

Sunday, August 24

Some skeptics doubted that **Lawrence Gowan** could make the transition from arena rocker to folk festival headliner. Gowan proved that he could, and delivered his piano-based music with panache and style to spare. The former rock star illustrated that good music begins and ends with the story and song.

Sunday was another gorgeous day at the festival. The afternoon exemplified Gary Cristall's idea of a good festival lineup: "a program with so much music you want to see, you do not know where to go". The **Nortel Stage** featured a live broadcast of the CKCU Celtic music program, *Music From the Glen*; stories and songs with **Dean Verger**; and **Meryn Cadell** in concert. **Fiddle Fever** featured fiddlers aplenty, while the session **It was 20 Years Ago Today** showcased **Ian Tamblyn, Shari Ulrich, David Wiffen** and others who had appeared at the **Festival for the Folks** at Britannia Park two decades earlier!

The **Inside Stage** was the location of a lively square dance with **Paddies on the Tundra**; and double bills featuring **Pamela Morgan** and the **Last Chance Saloon** competition winners the **Mudpouts**; and **Lawrence Gowan** and **Meg Lunney**. Kids were delighted with concerts designed with them in mind put on by **James Gordon** and **Del Fuego**. Those who camped out in front of the **Red Stage** were treated to double bills with **Linda Morrison** and **Jennifer Noxon**; **Gaston Bernard** and **Kagiso Mpala**; and a bluesy triple bill with **Paul Fenton, Vince Halfhide** and **Guy Davis**. Fans of the spoken word were entertained by members of **SugarBeat**, along with **Alex Mortimer, Justin Haynes, Sandra Nicholls**, and **Kagiso Mpala**. On the **Green Stage**, **CBC Radio** recorded a live to tape broadcast of the acoustic/roots music show *Heartland Live*, hosted by **Bill Stunt**. The **Green Stage** also showcased the talents of the worldbeat acoustic band **Raintree**; **Generation F** performers **Shoshona Kish, Lizanne Evely, Raven Kanatakta** and **Rob Commins**; **Melanie Doane** and the **Toasted Westerns**. The session **Play Me a Rock & Roll Song** featured **Valdy, Lawrence Gowan** and **Lizanne Everly**.

At the **Point Stage**, way down by the water, you could take in performances by wind instrumentalist **Robbie Anderman**, or sample the acoustic blues of **Larry "The Bird" Mootham, Vince Halfhide, Linda Morrison, Paul Fenton** and **Guy Davis**. The **Family Area** showcased awesome feats by **Tawney Ross**; "kidsongs" with **Linda Morrison** and **Russell Levia**; and stories with **Dean Verger**. **Doctor Magic** provided what you would expect, and **Del Fuego** appeared unplugged.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Weekend Choir** kicked off the evening **Main Stage** performances. A flurry of fiddling next ensued with renowned instrumentalists **Calvin Vollrath, Trent Brunner**, and **April Verch**. The dynamic **Shari Ulrich** performed next, followed by the bluegrass stylings of **Steel Rail**. Ottawa favourite **Ian Tamblyn** appeared with his usual assortment of musical gems. The evening ended with a heartfelt performance by Newfoundlander **Pamela Morgan** and a perennial festival performer: **Valdy**.

Year 5 (1998)

The Year of the Rainbows

Photos

A record crowd of approximately 12,000 attended the 1998 CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, held August 28 to 30 at Britannia Park. Despite intermittent downpours, rainbows appeared more than once in the festival skies, much to the delight of the participants. One of the festival highlights was a performance by folk veteran **Arlo Guthrie**, who played to an enthusiastic crowd on Sunday evening. **Ferron** received a warm response when she was awarded with the **Helen Verger Award**. The crowds were also dazzled by artists such as Americans **Martin Sexton** and **Vance Gilbert**. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

The highest number of performers ever participated in this year's festival, showcasing a wide spectrum of styles. Traditional roots music was represented by acclaimed artists such as **David Essig**; **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage**; **Gail Gavan** and **Cindy Thompson**. Exciting musical hybrids such as the African-inspired ensembles **Cheza** and the **Sifa Choir**, the French/Cajun performer **Danielle Martineau**, blues crooner **Georgette Fry**, and the unique Celtic/klezmer/blues-influenced band, **Night Sun**, kept the crowd dancing. Canadian festival veterans **Roy Forbes**, **Connie Kaldor**, **Moxy Fruvous**, **Fred Eaglesmith**, the **Wyrd Sisters** and **Holmes Hooke** rounded out the evening's lineup.

Friday, August 28

"If anyone wondered about the future of acoustic and folk-style music they only needed to take in last night's opening set of concerts at the Ottawa Folk Festival to see that there's a bevy of new artists already taking up the torch," reported Rick Overall in the *Ottawa Sun*. The fun began on Friday evening on the **Nortel Stage** in traditional festival fashion, with **Arthur McGregor** performing an instrumental guitar version of "O Canada". Eclectic singer-songwriter **Christine Graves** was followed by **Oh Susanna**, a Vancouver native who puts a new spin on traditional North American country music. The wonderful and witty **Vance Gilbert** wowed the crowd with his awesome vocal style and accomplished guitar playing. Many considered his dynamic performance one of the most memorable at the festival. The **Mike Plume Band** delivered a spirited plugged-in set that reflected the band's alternative and country roots.

Following intermission, crowd-pleasers **Moxy Fruvous** had the crowd in stitches during their lively performance featuring their recent hits. The mood shifted to the gentle acoustic sounds of Seattle-based **Erin Corday**. **Fred Eaglesmith** was accompanied by his stellar band including **Willie P. Bennett** and **Washboard Hank**. The evening ended on a high note with an infectious and highly danceable set by the irrepressible band **Night Sun**.

The **1997-98 Ottawa Folk Festival Benefit Concerts** featured an eclectic cross-section of talent. The successful series included the following concerts:

November 9, 1997: The **Wyrd Sisters** and **Malaika** double bill, Bronson Centre

December 6, 1997: **Lawrence Gowan** (opening act **SugarBeat**), National Library of Canada

December 13, 1997: **Ian Tamblyn** CD release concert, National Library of Canada

January 18, 1998: **Dar Williams** (opening act Jennifer Noxon), Great Canadian Theatre Company

February 21, 1998: Hot Music for a Cold Night (Winterlude Event featuring a double bill with **Georgette Fry** and **Rawlins Cross**), Congress Centre

March 20, 1998: **Connie Kaldor** (opening act **Beth Ferguson**), National Library of Canada

April 17, 1998: **Lennie Gallant** (opening act **Terry Tufts**), Canadian Museum of Nature

May 29, 1998: **Stephen Fearing** (opening act **Mélisse Lafrance**), Canadian Museum of Nature

Saturday, August 29

There was plenty of daytime entertainment at this year's festival, giving festival goers many opportunities to enjoy intimate performances. The **Nortel Stage** kicked off the afternoon with **The Old Sod**, music from Great Britain and France, featuring **Finest Kind**, **Erin Cassidy**, **Bobby Watt**, **Aengus Finnan**, and **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage**. **Christmas in August**, hosted by Shelley Posen, was a collection of the songs you would expect as interpreted by **Finest Kind**, **Roy Forbes**, **Mark Haines**, **Tom Leighton** and **Jan Andrews**. **Moxy Früvous** took to the stage next for a lively 45-minute concert. The **Saskatoon Moon** session featured a double bill with Canadian folkies **Connie Kaldor** and **Roy Forbes**.

Richard Knechtel hosted the **Songs from the Heart** session on the **Red Stage**. The participants, all SOCAN award winners, included **Jennifer Noxon**, **Ellen Hamilton**, **Glen Reid**, **Michaela Foster Marsh** and **Holmes Hooke**. Legendary guitar player **David Essig** hosted the **I Love My Guitar** session with **Brandon Scott**, **Rick Fines**, **Andy Sheppard** and **Shelley Jennings**. Talented Irish flute player **Erin Cassidy** performed tunes from her album *The Wind at Play*. **Lizzie Shanks** and **Brandon Scott** were joined by a few musical friends during the **Besharah in Concert** session. The **On the Fiddle** session showcased a diverse lineup of talent: **Gaston Bernard**, **Jami Sieber**, **Mark Haines**, **Gary Weinger** and **Peter Jellard**. **Tom Leighton** hosted the **My Main Squeeze** session, a rollicking roundup of accordionists **Danielle Martineau**, **Bonnie Dawson** and **Benoit Bourque**, and concertina player **Ian Robb**.

The **Green Stage** opened the afternoon with **It's Only Rock & Roll**, hosted by **Roy Forbes** and featuring **Terry Tufts**, **Sherry Shute**, **David Essig** and **Fred Guignon**. Local singer-songwriter **Charlie Sohmer** was up next with a 30-minute concert. The struggle against adversity was the theme in the **Breaking Through** session hosted by **Sherry Shute** and featuring **Ferron**, **Vance Gilbert**, **Bobby Watt** and **Deborah Herr-Allen**. A 30-minute concert featuring **Night Sun** followed. **Dance with Akpokli** gave the audience an opportunity to sway to the rhythms of traditional drum music from Ghana. **Gloria May Eshkibok** hosted the **Personal Politics** session, a one-hour presentation of issues-oriented music with **Bob Stark**, **Moxy Früvous** and **Nishtu**.

At the **Point Stage**, near the Ottawa River, **Arthur McGregor** hosted a **Singalong Folk Jam** with plenty of audience participation. Animator **Erin Cassidy** hosted the **Learn to Play the Pennywhistle** workshop. **Just For Laughs** featured the lighthearted music of **Richard Knechtel**,

Vance Gilbert, Steve Fruitman and Robert Atyeo and was hosted by **Ann Downey**. **Vance Gilbert** in concert featured one of North America's most exciting performers.

In the cool confines of the air-conditioned **Inside Stage**, the **Black Sheep Salute** was hosted by **Paul Symes**, the owner of the Chelsea, Quebec club. **Mike Plume, Christine Graves, Oh Susanna** and **Kwasi Dunyo** were the featured performers. A double bill followed with artists **Terry Tufts** and **Erin Corday**. Host **Nancy Ziebarth** joined forces with **Cindy Thompson** and **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage** for the **Learn to Stepdance** workshop. The second double bill of the day showcased the talents of **Ana Coutinho** and **Lindy**. The day ended with a dance featuring the music of the **Mike Plume Band**.

The popular **Family Area** was a whirlwind of activity. Animator **Judy Halla** got things underway with **Aerobics for Kids**. Three separate **Kindermusik** sessions were animated by **Claudia Mack, Kathy Ruggiero** and **Monica Wolf**, who explored rhythms for the very young. **Cindy Thompson** was on hand to teach the **Stepdancing for Kids** session. The **Dickie Bird for Kids** session featured **Richard Knechtel**, an entertaining and versatile folkie. **Crafts for Kids**, led by crafter **Janet Whittam**, gave family members a chance to make decorations.

The evening performances on the **Nortel Networks Stage** kicked off with premier Ottawa Valley fiddler-stepdancer **Cindy Thompson**. The 25-member **Sifa Choir** was in the midst of performing when the skies darkened and the rain poured down in torrents, sending the audience running for cover. The storm abated within 20 minutes and the Sifa Choir returned to the stage, gamely performing without microphones. Their spirited music lifted the audience members, who were delighted when the sun came out and a double rainbow appeared in the sky above the Nortel Networks stage.

Veteran folk festival performer **Roy Forbes** appeared in concert. Montreal singer-songwriter **Danielle Martineau** performed with the **Stephen Barry Blues Band** in a set that combined French-Canadian roots music, zydeco and reggae. Saskatchewan native **Connie Kaldor** performed her lyrical and humorous songs about life on the prairies.

Following intermission, **The Unceded Band** featuring **Gloria May Eshkibok, Miche Hill** and **Sherry Shute**, performed with their usual passion and playfulness. The band gets its name from one of the largest unceded Aboriginal territories in the world. **Martin Sexton** wowed the evening crowd with his evocative vocal style and original material. **Ferron** mesmerized everyone with her powerfully poetic self-penned songs. Much of her material was so well known that the audience sang along. After her performance she was awarded with the **Helen Verger Award**. **Georgette Fry** ably demonstrated why she was awarded *Jazz Report Magazine's* Blues Artist of the Year award when she delivered a rousing closing set.

Sunday, August 30

Sunday morning and afternoon offered plenty of folk fun at Britannia Park. On the **Nortel Stage**, the day opened with **Aengus Finnan** in concert. **Canadian Spaces Live**, hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**, showcased the talents of Space Cadets **David Essig, Bob Stark, Lonesome Paul** and

Crow's Feet. A double bill followed, featuring **Martin Sexton** and **The Wyrd Sisters.** The **Courriers** in concert featured the legendary Ottawa folk group of the 1960s. **Arlo Guthrie** and **Connie Kaldor** were the dynamic duo who appeared in the **Together Again for the First Time** session. **Heartland Live**, hosted by **Bill Stunt** recorded the performances by **Robert Atyeo, Ana Coutinho, Crow's Feet** and **Charlie Sohmer**, which were later broadcast on Bill's CBC Radio show.

First up on the **Red Stage** was the session **Now That's a Stretch** with **Ray Bonneville, Mark Haines, Tom Leighton** and **Deborah Kerr-Allen** and hosted by **Lindy.** **Tall Tales and Strange Songs** followed, featuring host **Holmes Hooke** and performers **Robert Atyeo, Bobby Watt** and **Larry "the Bird" Mootham.** **Ron Moores** hosted **That Good Old Time Music**, featuring traditional songs by **Lonesome Paul, Gail Gavan,** and **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage.** A double bill with singer-songwriters **Glen Reid** and **Gord Johnston** followed. **The Great Outdoors** hosted by **Jan Andrews** was a truly Canadian experience with **Blackflies, Holmes Hooke, The Wyrd Sisters** and **Glen Reid.** **Alan Weekes** hosted a rousing session of **American Acoustic**, honouring the CKCU-FM folk show of the same name. Musicians included **Martin Sexton, Ann Downey, Vance Gilbert** and **Erin Corday.**

The **Unceded Band** set the pace with a concert on the **Green Stage.** This trio expresses in song the plight of indigenous peoples and other social issues. A little gospel music does a soul good on a Sunday morning. **Neema Mugala** hosted the **Glory, Glory** session, featuring songs of joyous celebration from the **Sifa Choir, May Lebrun, Gord Johnson, Mark Haines** and **Tom Leighton.** Montreal musician **Elana Harte** showed off her infectious rhythms and sparkling vocals in a 30-minute concert. The audience had the privilege of an intimate concert with **Ferron.** **Lee Hayes** was host of **For the Love of Music** session, an international collection of songs presented by **Malaika, Vance Gilbert, Robert Atyeo, Crow's Feet,** and **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage.** The closing session was **Dance with Dam'Deride**, featuring the Montreal women's choir directed by **Danielle Martineau.**

Shelley Posen led the workshop titled **Learn to Sing with Shape Notes** on the scenic **Point Stage.** **Larry "The Bird" Mootham** and **Southside Steve** animated the **Learn to Play the Harmonica** workshop. **Vince Halfhide** followed suit with **Learn to Play the Slide Guitar**, and was assisted by two masters of the form: **David Essig** and **Rick Fines.** Host Georgette Fry was accompanied by **Ray Bonneville, Martin Sexton, Larry "The Bird" Mootham** and **The Mighty Popo** in the **Acoustic Blues** session.

The air-conditioned **Inside Stage** was a cool setting for the opening double bill with **Rick Fines** and **Andy Sheppard.** Rasputin's owner **Dean Verger** hosted the **Special Blend** session, which featured **Elana Harte, Lindy** and **Andy Sheppard.** World music was the theme of **See and Hear the World** with **Cheza, Gypsy Jive, M'El M'Rabet, Kebba Jobateh, The Mighty Popo, Ras Kagiso Mpala** and host **Stella Haybukhai.** **Erin Corday** was the host of the **I Still Love My Guitar**, a roundup of several styles as demonstrated by **Terry Tufts, M'El M'Rabet, Ray Bonneville** and **Richard Knechtel.** Dancing was definitely encouraged during the **Dance with Gypsy Jive** session. The dancing continued with **Dance with Cheza**, a session driven by African rhythms.

In the **Family Area**, Danielle Martineau animated **Accordion Tales**, a roundup of styles of this sometimes misunderstood instrument. **Judy Halla** led the **Aerobics for Kids**. The **Baobab Young Performers** showcased the talents of a drum and dance society whose members range in age from 12 to 17. The group's teacher, **Kathy Armstrong**, was on hand to show off her students. The **Crafts for Kids** workshops were hosted by **Heather Boyd** (jewelry) and **Ted Kordner** (drawing). The day ended with **Dean Verger for Kids**, where "Uncle Dean" told tales for the entire family.

The evening entertainment on the Nortel Stage began with a lively set from **Blackflies**, a Cajun group that hails from Ontario. The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Weekend Choir**, directed by **Andy Rush**, promised to make the sun come peeking from behind the clouds and managed to accomplish this feat. This group had practised throughout the weekend, and performed with panache. Popular Ottawa Valley singer **Gail Gavan** was well received by the audience, who welcomed her traditional songs and stories. Guitar wizard **David Essig** knew he was on the right track when he played "Sunrise II", the theme song for Canadian Spaces. This song was the best received in his polished set. **Bourque, Bernard et Lepage** had fun singing and dancing their way into the hearts of the crowd. The crowd-pleasing number saw Bourque stepdance and shave a volunteer from the audience.

After the intermission, the **Wyrd Sisters**, a Winnipeg-based trio performed their eclectic brand of music. The much-anticipated set by **Arlo Guthrie** delighted the audience, who were thrilled to hear their favourite songs from the author of "Alice's Restaurant". The festival presented Arlo with an original painting by **Roberta Huebener**, as a thank you for the role he played in helping to save the festival, which nearly foundered in its third year. In 1996, Arlo performed in two sold-out benefit concerts that helped raise enough funds to put on the 1997 festival. The amazing African-inspired rhythms of **Cheza** were featured as the last act of the evening and brought to a close the fifth annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival at Britannia Park.

Year 6 (1999)

CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Reaches a New High

Photos

Best ever festival! That was the consensus of performers and festival goers alike for the 1999 CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, held from August 27 to 29 at Britannia Park. The record-breaking crowds were treated to blue skies, warm summer weather and an impressive lineup. The festival attained a high level of professionalism evidenced by superb performances, and excellent lighting and sound. Several musicians including **Jane Siberry, Ian Tamblyn, Lucy Kaplansky** and **Lynn Miles**, lavished praise for the festival while onstage. A particularly warm response was extended to **Chopper McKinnon**, who accepted the **Helen Verger Award**. **Chopper** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

“The performers were ecstatic about this year’s festival,” said festival organizer **Pam Marjerrison**. The festival crowds were equally ecstatic and turned out in record numbers. Attendance was high for the daytime performances, Marjerrison was happy to point out. “This is what we’ve always wanted. The daytime performances are as important as the evening ones.”

Daytime sessions held in Lakeside Gardens were particularly well attended. The hilarious **Laugh It Up** session featuring **Trout Fishing in America, Vance Gilbert** and **Jane Siberry** was standing room only. Festival staff had to turn people away from the **Burgundy, Bailey’s and Bourbon** workshop with **Laura Smith, Georgette Fry and Margo Timmins**, as the hall was filled to capacity.

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival is now being held up as a model for organizers of other festivals. On the Labour Day weekend, *Ottawa Sun* reporter Ian Nathanson stated in a review of another local music festival: “If you want advice on how to *properly* organize a festival, check with the people behind the Folk Festival and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival.”

A record number of performers from south of the border appeared. American acoustic music was well represented by **Karen Savoca, Trout Fishing in America, Annie Gallup, Cry Cry Cry (Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky and Richard Shindell), Vance Gilbert, Bill Morrissey** and **Chuck Brodsky**.

Some magical moments included **Jane Siberry** performing an improvisational version of “The Water is Wide” with cellist **Jorane Peltier** on Saturday evening. Those who gathered for a **Tom Wilson** showcase on Sunday afternoon were treated to a one-hour performance from the supergroup **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings**. Finally, Inuit performer **Lucie Idlout** proved that popular music can take on serious social issues and still rock.

Benefit Concert Series

The festival was the culmination of a busy year of concerts under the festival banner. The annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Benefit Concert Series featured the following performers:

November 28: **Nancy White** and **The Toasted Westerns**, First Unitarian Congregation

February 6: **Fred Eaglesmith** and **Ray Bonneville**, Barrymore's

February 27: **Martin Sexton**, Bronson Centre

March 20: Don Ross and Besharah, First Unitarian
Congregation

April 17: **The Arrogant Worms** and **Holmes Hooke**, First
Unitarian Congregation

May 28: **Christine Lavin** and **Tom Lips**, First Unitarian
Congregation

May 29: **Dar Williams** and **Tammy RayBould**, Glebe Collegiate

A **special photo exhibit** opened on Monday, August 23, at the **National Press Club** at 150 Wellington Street featuring photography of the folk festival by **Nix Wadden**, **Jim Commins** and **Dave Haggerty**. **Mike McCormick**, a member of the wacky and wonderful **Arrogant Worms** entertained those who turned out for the event.

The **festival preview concerts** began on Sunday, August 22, when **Trace Elements** performed at the Chapters store in Kanata. A series of **free lunchtime concerts** held at the World Exchange Plaza began on Tuesday, August 24, with a double bill featuring **Ian Tamblyn**, along with **Andrea Karam** and **Fred Guignon**. On August 25, **Wendy DeMos** and the African-influenced rhythms of **Mel M'rabet** were showcased. **The Unceded Band** and **Laura Smith** performed on August 25.

On Friday, August 27, **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings** (**Stephen Fearing**, **Colin Linden** and **Tom Wilson**) performed a lunchtime concert outside the HMV store on Sparks Street.

Several **late-evening evening concerts** were held at the Luxor Hotel from August 26-28. These popular concerts featured the likes of **Laura Smith**, **Richard Wood** and **Trout Fishing in America**.

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival is grateful for the generosity of its sponsors: Nortel Networks, Ottawa Folklore Centre, the Luxor Hotel, Ottawa Citizen, Rogers Community TV, Phase 2, CBC Radio One, Bell Mobility, Ontario Arts Council, Loeb, Ginn, CKCU, US Airways, VIA Rail Canada, Michael Davies Plymouth Chrysler Ltd., Steve's Music Store, Pepsi, CS Co-op, Alexander Keith's India Pale Ale, Chez 106, National Library of Canada, Mexicali Rosa's, Nutshell Music, Chapters, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, The Food Bank, X Press, Canada NewsWire and Human Resources Development Canada.

Friday, August 27

Friday evening opened in traditional festival manner with **Arthur McGregor** performing an acoustic guitar version of "O Canada". First up was Ottawa singer-songwriter **Jennifer Noxon**, who entertained the crowd with her original compositions. **The Angstones** were up next with an energetic set including the local favourite, "Bytown It's My Town". The musical surprise of the evening was **Karen Savoca**, a dynamic conga-playing singer-songwriter from Syracuse, New York. **Njacko Backo** was up next with African-inspired music. **Jorane Peltier**, a young

Québécois cellist with a dramatic vocal style, dazzled the crowd with her imaginative original compositions. P.E.I. fiddling sensation **Richard Wood** gave a high energy performance that was received with much appreciation.

The audience enthusiastically received **Lynn Miles**, whose set included music from her latest CD, *Night in a Strange Town*, and some new material inspired by her life south of the border. **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings**, a supergroup of performers **Stephen Fearing**, **Tom Wilson** and **Colin Linden**, delivered a powerful set that brought the evening to a rollicking close.

Saturday, August 28

Saturday afternoon had so much to offer that many festival goers expressed frustration that they could not see it all! These well-attended afternoon sessions were held on six stages, a record number for the festival.

The **Nortel Networks Stage** was the location for the **Living Traditions** workshop hosted by **Ian Robb**, and including **Finest Kind**, **Kebba Jobateh**, **Matapat**, **Eve Goldberg** and **Alain Chatry**. **Ron Moores** hosted **Back Forty Live** featuring the **Cowboy Junkies**, **Sarah Harmer**, **Big Gravel** and **Sherwood Lumsden**. The session was aired live on CKCU for the popular *Back Forty* program, which features traditional country, bluegrass and old-time music. **Bill Stunt** of CBC Radio was also on hand to host **Heartland Live, Part I** featuring **Terry Tufts**, **Fireweed**, **Tom Wilson** and **Katherine Wheatley**. This performance was recorded for later broadcast on the CBC Radio program *Heartland*, which features music from Ontario. Separate concerts were performed by **Ray Bonneville** and **Stephen Fearing**. The afternoon sessions wound down on a comical note, with **Njacko Backo** and **Trout Fishing in America**.

On the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage**, the entertainment began with **Alain Lauzon** in concert. Ottawa Folklore Centre owner **Arthur McGregor** hosted a rousing **Singalong Folk Jam**. **Terry Eagan**, a folk enthusiast from Waltham, Massachusetts, hosted the **Boston Connection** featuring **Annie Gallup** and **Bill Morrissey** from south of the border, and Canadian performers **Beth Ferguson** and **Rick Fines**. **Benoit Bourque** and **Alain Chatry** held a session on **how to play the spoons**. A double bill featuring **Katherine Wheatley** and **Jorane Peltier**, two distinctly different performers from Ontario and Quebec, ended the daytime performances.

The **Phase 2 Stage** opened with Ottawa performer **Wendy DeMos** in concert. **East Meets West** was the theme of the next session, hosted by **Kurt Walther** and featuring **Victor Nesrallah**, **The Angstones** and **Njacko Backo**. The poetic and beautiful **Laura Smith** next graced the stage. **Paul Symes**, owner of the **Black Sheep Inn**, hosted some acts that had performed at the popular Chelsea, Quebec club: **The Grievous Angels**, **Sarah Harmer**, **Stephen Fearing** and **Jennifer Noxon**. A double bill was provided by **Richard Wood** and **John Prince** and **A Piece of the Rock** in concert. There was fiddling aplenty at the cleverly named **Fiddle Heads** session hosted by **Marion Linton**, with **Richard Wood**, **Gaston Bernard**, **Greg Brown** and **Peter Jellard**. The audience was delighted when a half-hour session featuring **Tom Wilson** turned into a one-hour session of **Blackie and the Rodeo Kings**. **Stephen Fearing** and **Colin Linden** were welcome additions!

The entertainment on the **US Airways Stage** began with two local women in concert: **Brenna Rivier** and **Sally Robinson**. A session titled **L'Amour** was lovingly hosted by **Benoit Bourque** and showcased **Jorane Peltier**, **Wendy DeMos** and **Luann Kowalek**. The funky **Stringed Things** session included **Mel M'Rabet**, **Ruth Bowen**, **Rick Fielding** and **George Sapounidis**, and was hosted by **Ann Downey**. **Vance Gilbert** hosted the **American Acoustic I** session with **Bill Morrissey**, **Annie Gallup** and **Karen Savoca**. The **Edge of Folk** session included **Tom Wilson**, **Lucie Idlout** and **Martina Sorbara** and was hosted by **Stephanie Guzman**. **Ian Tamblyn** was an apt choice as the host of a **Back to Nature** session featuring the talents of **Jane Siberry** and **Bill Morrissey**.

The **Rogers Stage** inside Lakeside Gardens opened with the comically named **It's a Dobro, Bro** with **Rick Fines**, **Doug Cox** and **Vince Halfhide**. **Guitars Galore**, hosted by **Alex Houghton**, sizzled with the likes of **Terry Tufts**, **Stephen Fearing** and **Alan Marsden**. **Rasputin's** owner **Dean Verger** was on hand to host **Rasputin's Live** with **Michael Timmins**, **Ian Tamblyn**, **Ray Bonneville** and **Luann Kowalek**. Next it was time to do a **Blues Boogie Dance** with Kingston's excellent **Georgette Fry Band**. The most popular session of the day was **Burgundy, Bailey's and Bourbon**, a session of torch songs hosted by **Laura Smith**, with **Georgette Fry** and **Margo Timmins**. To end the daytime programming, the **My Hometown** session hosted by **Jennifer Noxon** boasted **Luann Kowalek**, **John Prince** and **The Angstones**, who performed the local hit "Bytown, It's My Town".

Classical-style guitarist **Andrew Mah** was first up on the **Ontario. More to Discover** stage. Concerts by the **Ottawa Harp Choir** and **Eve Goldberg** followed. Avid picker and tenor **Rick Fielding** appeared in concert. Three double bills were presented on this stage: **Alex Houghton** and **Martina Sorbara**; **Chuck Brodsky** and **Doug Cox**, and **Sherwood Lumsden**; and **Vance Gilbert** and **Colin Linden**.

The Saturday evening concerts on the **Nortel Networks** stage opened with the contemporary country stylings of **The Grievous Angels**. **Georgette Fry** delivered a bluesy and emotive set. Quirky American singer songwriter **Annie Gallup** was up next with a series of riveting story-songs. **Cox, Fines and Brodsky** provided excellent instrumentation and vocals. American troubadour **Bill Morrissey** delighted and amused the audience with his charming adventures in song. The lively **Matapat** set included **Benoit Bourque** stepdancing while shaving an innocent volunteer from the audience. The **Jane Siberry** performance held a few surprises including an impromptu opening number with **Jorane Peltier** that held the audience spellbound. The ever popular **Cowboy Junkies** closed the most well-attended day in CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival history with their own special blend of inspired ballads.

Sunday, August 29

The weekend of first-rate folk music continued on Sunday morning, which dawned bright and sunny.

The **Nortel Networks Stage** was first graced with the presence of **Fireweed** in concert. The group's harmonies are reminiscent of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. **Poetry in Motion**, hosted

by **Alrick Huebener of SugarBeat**, featured **Jane Siberry, Annie Gallup, SugarBeat** and **Alex Mortimer**. The mood turned to blue when **Sue Foley** appeared in concert with **Tony D.**

Then it was time for **Heartland Live, Part II**. The CBC Radio show was hosted by **Bill Stunt** and showcased the talents of **Big Gravel, Eve Goldberg, Andrea Karam** and **Fred Guignon** and, and **James Gordon**. The afternoon on the big stage ended with **Vince Halfhide** and **Larry “The Bird” Mootham** in concert.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** had a diverse lineup of talent. A **Singalong Folk Jam** hosted by **Arthur McGregor** kicked off the day. The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Weekend Choir** was onstage for two practices, coached by **Andy Rush**. Workshops teaching participants how to play the harmonica, the didgeridoo, or to learn shape note singing followed. The rocking sounds of **Lucie Idlout** rounded out the entertainment for the day.

Sunday morning was an opportune time for singing **Hallelujah** on the **Phase 2 Stage**. Host **Doug Cox** introduced a spiritually oriented session with **The Unceded Band, Rick Fielding, Andrea Karam, Fred Guignon** and **Peter Kiesevalter**. **Shelley Posen** hosted **Christmas in August**, featuring **Chuck Brodsky, Finest Kind** and storyteller **Ruth Bowen**. **Lynn Miles** was the host of the **I Can Relate to That** session showcasing **Laura Smith, Beth Ferguson** and **Tom Lips**. A concert with **Dar Williams** followed. The mood then shifted to **Celtic** in a session hosted by **Michaela Foster Marsh** with **Rawlins Cross** and award-winning Ottawa Valley fiddler **April Verch**. Verch also joined the next session, **Old-Time Fiddling**, hosted by **James Stephens** and featuring **Shane Cook, Stacey Lynn Read** and **Fast Forward**.

The fun on the **US Airways Stage** began with a session called **Wood and Steel**, hosted by **Lynn Miles**. **Andrew Collins, Joey Wright, Andrew Mah** and **Paul Fenton** appeared. **Dario Domingues** hosted **North Meets South** with **Lucie Idlout, No Reservations** and **Aqsarniit**. **Jane Siberry** next appeared in concert. The final two sessions were acoustically inclined. The **Acoustic Blues** session hosted by **Larry “The Bird” Mootham** featured **Tony D., Sue Foley, Ray Bonneville, Vince Halfhide, Paul Fenton** and **Southside Steve**. **Angela Page** hosted **American Acoustic II** with **Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky, Chuck Brodsky** and **Richard Shindell**.

We’ve Got Rhythm was the theme for the **Rogers Stage**. Host **Karen Savoca** introduced an eclectic rhythm section including **Ken Harper, Ian Tamblyn, Kebba Jobateh** and **Fast Forward**. **We’ve Got You Covered** featured **Cry Cry Cry, Chuck Angus** and host **Sarah Harmer**. It was time for dancing with two lively sessions: **Modern Square Dancing** with **John Charman** and **Contradance for Everyone** with **Shindigo**. **Jane Siberry** hosted the **Laugh It Up** session with **Tom Lips, Trout Fishing in America** and **Vance Gilbert**. The day’s activities ended with **James Gordon** in concert.

The **Ontario. More to Discover Stage** kicked off the day with **Trace Elements** in concert. **Jane Radmore** was onstage next. Four double bills followed: **Karen Savoca** and **Bill Morrissey**, **Michaela Foster Marsh** and **SugarBeat**, **Annie Gallup** and **Luann Kowalak**, and **Matapat** and **Monette et Poisson**.

Sunday evening on the **Nortel Networks Stage** began with the joyous sounds of the **Ottawa Folk Festival Weekend Choir**. Although storm clouds were gathering, the choir proclaimed in song that the storm was going to pass over. And it did! **Big Gravel**, a Toronto-based ensemble exploring fiddle music, swing and new acoustic styles performed next. **Terry Tufts**, a favourite of Ottawa audiences, delighted the crowd with his inspired vocals and intricate guitar playing. The original and amusing story songs of **Vance Gilbert** provided a highly entertaining set. The dynamic Sudbury-based group **No Reservations** was accompanied by a mesmerizing dancer wearing a traditional raven costume.

There was barely a dry eye in the park when **Chopper McKinnon** accepted the **Helen Verger Award** for his role in promoting and supporting Canadian folk music. The host of the CKCU Radio show **Canadian Spaces** for 19 years thanked his fans. The Space Cadets were out in full force to cheer on Chopper. Locally based and globally admired singer-songwriter Ian Tamblyn entertained the crowd with a sampling of his eclectic material. **Cry Cry Cry**, an American folk dream team, featured **Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky** and **Richard Shindell**. The singing poetry of the provocative **Laura Smith** stays in your mind long after you hear it and this performance was no exception. The lively sounds of the Newfoundland-based group **Rawlins Cross**, spanning Celtic, rock and traditional Maritime music, ended yet another incredible weekend of folk at Britannia Park!

Year 7 (2000)

Folk from Coast to Coast to Coast

Photos

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival marked the millennium by celebrating some special anniversaries, including the 20th anniversary of the CKCU folk music show *Canadian Spaces* (hosted by Chopper McKinnon), the 20th anniversary of **Rasputin's Folk Café** (operated by Dean Verger), and the 10th anniversary of CKCU's traditional country show, *The Back Forty* (hosted by Ron Moores). It was also a time to remember two cherished Ottawa performers who died in the past year: **Beth Ferguson** and **Dario Domingues**. The festival was held from August 25 to 27 at Britannia Park. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

The 2000 festival had an outstanding line-up, wonderful weather and record attendance. Approximately 15,000 people visited the festival. "We were thrilled with the good weather, the great music, and the extremely positive audience response to our seventh festival," said Festival Director Gene Swimmer. "The way the community has embraced this event over the years is inspiring for all of us."

"This was our most elaborate festival so far, and also the smoothest," commented Festival Artistic Director Chris White. "The volunteers, performers and festival-goers all did their part to create an environment where magic could and did occur."

With the theme of **Folk from Coast to Coast to Coast**, the seventh annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival presented at least one artist from each province and territory. Our American neighbours were also well represented by the outstanding talents of singer-songwriter **Greg Brown**, and **Odetta**, who is known as the "Queen of American Folk Music." **Odetta** showed remarkable poise when she continued to sing after a power outage plunged the main stage into darkness during her performance. Even without the benefit of a microphone, her magnificent voice reached the back of the park. Another highlight was **Garnet Rogers** who accepted the **Helen Verger Award** for his outstanding contribution to Canadian folk music before delivering a show-stopping performance.

After Hours at the Avalon

After Hours at the Avalon featured artists in late-evening sessions held on August 24 to 27 at the Days Inn Ottawa West. These popular sessions showcased the following performers:

Thursday, August 24: James Keelaghan, The Herb Girls, and Karen Savoca.

Friday, August 25: Moxy Früvous, Kim Barlow, Oh Susannah, Jacob Two-Two, Emily Celeste, David Keeble, Martina Sorbara, and Christina Smith & Jean Hewson.

Saturday, August 26: The Arrogant Worms, Théodore Fontaine, Melwood Cutlery, Chris Chandler and Magda Hiller, David Francey, Chris MacLean, Eugene Ruffolo, Les Crapaudes, John Charlton and Tannis Slimmon.

Sunday, August 27: The Sunday brunch featured Cowboy X, John Charlton and Tannis Slimmon.

Friday, August 25

Friday evening opened with Ottawa Folklore Centre owner **Arthur McGregor** performing his customary acoustic version of “O Canada.” Next up was **Great Balancing Act**, a groovy band from New Brunswick who sang a spirited blend of folk and pop with great harmonies. They were followed by another fivesome: **Colores Andinos**, a group of South American origin who charmed the audience with the ethereal sounds of pan pipes, mandolin and Latin-style percussion. Accompanying them was **Nubia**, a passionate vocalist with Venezuelan roots.

The audience was next treated to the refreshing performance poetry of **Chris Chandler** and **Magda Hiller**. The American duo was a treat to the eyes and ears each time they performed. Chris and Magda were followed by the pulsating rock rhythms of **The Mike Plume Band** making their second festival appearance. The mood shifted to a performance of historical ballads from Prairie performer **James Keelaghan**.

Following intermission, the wacky, adorable and ever-popular **Moxy Früvous** took the stage with a high-energy performance. After a second appearance by Chris Chandler & Magda Hiller, **Oh Susanna** delivered a set of Appalachian-tinged ballads. **The Jim Cuddy Band** closed the evening with a mixed set of Blue Rodeo songs and material from Jim Cuddy’s first solo album, *All in Time*.

Saturday, August 26

The day began on the **Nortel Networks Stage** with the heavenly sounds of the **Ottawa Harp Choir** in concert. At noon, **Folk from Coast to Coast to Coast** showcased easterners **Christina Smith** and **Jean Hewson**, northerner **Kim Barlow**, and westerners **UHF** (Ulrich, Henderson and Forbes). During the afternoon, CBC producer **Bill Stunt** recorded his session **Heartland Live 1**, which featured **Garnet Rogers**, **Darlene Sovran**, **Jacob Two-Two** and **Melwood Cutlery**. The next session, **Loonie Tunes**, was hosted by Mike McCormick and featured the comical antics of the rest of **The Arrogant Worms**, **Moxy Früvous** and **Chris Chandler & Magda Hiller**. The afternoon wound up with the session **Acoustic Blues** with blues harpist **Gary Farmer**, **Tri-Continental** and **Ken Hamm**.

The **Rogers Stage** opened with the comical music of **Laroque and Larolla** (Richard Patterson and Sandy Crawley). The **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert** with **Heather Bishop** and **The Arrogant Worms** entertained kids of all ages. Next up was **Théodore Fontaine** and **Les Crapaudes** in concert. The audience participated enthusiastically in the next session, **Learn to Samba**, hosted by **Mike Atyeo** and featuring dancers and **Samba Ottawa!** **The Women of Folk** showcased three generations of women pushing the boundaries of folk: **Odetta**, **Shari Ulrich** and **Martina Sobara**. The last performance of the day was **Moxy Früvous** in concert.

The **Phase 2 Stage** presented **My Guitar**, an incredible concert featuring the guitar talents of **Ken Hamm**, **Pete Heitzman** and **Bill Bourne**. The **American Acoustic 1** session, named for the CKCU show, boasted the talents of **Lucy Kaplansky**, **Greg Brown** and **Karen Savoca**. **Northern Exposure** showcased traditional Inuit song and dance with **Aqsarniit**, and the northern

voices of **Kim Barlow** and **Tracy Riley**. For a change of pace, the **It's Only (Acoustic) Rock & Roll** session presented **Bill Henderson, Laroque & Larolla, Sarah Harmer, and Madagascar Slim. Le Mouton Noir** celebrated the popular Wakefield, Quebec club, The Black Sheep Inn. Owner **Paul Symes** hosted this session, which featured **Garnet Rogers, Sarah Harmer, Kathleen Edwards** and **Mike Plume**.

The **US Airways Stage** opened with a double bill: **David Francey and Martina Sorbara** in concert. **The Next Wave** gave the younger generation of folkies a chance to show their stuff. **Jim Bryson** hosted **Emily Celeste** and **mAd VioLeT**. A second double bill featured **The Mike Plume Band** and **Great Balancing Act**. The **Prairie Power** session, hosted by **James Keelaghan**, showcased **Greg Brown** and **Heather Bishop**. The stage's last offering of the day was **East Meets East**, a down-home style kitchen party with P.E.I. native **Lennie Gallant** hosting Maritimers **Christina Smith & Jean Hewson**, and **mAd VioLeT**.

A double bill of **Gary Farmer** and **David Keeble** was the first entertainment of the day on the **Capital Double Decker & Trolley Tours Stage**. Another double bill followed with **Jorane** and **John Charlton & Tannis Slimmon**. The third double bill featured **Karen Savoca** and **Lynn Miles**. **Kathleen Edwards** hosted **Generation F**, a showcase of rising talents **Oh Susannah** and **Jim Bryson**. The final double bill of the day was a session with **Darlene Sovran** and the **Kim Barlow Band**.

The **CS CO-OP Family Area** opened with **Aytahn Ross** who juggled crystal balls and performed other amazing feats. The Inuit traditional group **Aqsarniit**, humorists **Laroque & Larolla**, and **Michael Cass-Beggs** also performed material geared towards the young and young at heart.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** opened with an hour-long singalong with **Arthur McGregor**, followed by **HeartSong** in concert, a **Folklore Centre Festival Choir Practice**, and a session on **Learn to Play the Pennywhistle** with **Andy Daub**. Next up was a double bill of **Jacob Two-Two** and **mAd VioLeT**, followed by another double bill of **Oh Susanna** and **Melwood Cutlery**.

The **Nortel Networks Evening Concert** began with **Sarah Harmer**, a fine singer-songwriter who once fronted the Ontario band, Weeping Tile. The group **Aqsarniit** is dedicated to the preservation of Inuit culture. Their performance demonstrated traditional Inuit drumming, dancing and throat singing. Festival favourites, **The Arrogant Worms**, entertained with their usual zany and side-splitting humorous material. **Lucy Kaplansky**, who wowed last year's audience as part of the supergroup **Cry Cry Cry**, performed an engaging solo set that showcased her considerable talents as a singer-songwriter. The avant-garde ensemble **F'loom** combined social satire, improvisation and poetry with a sophisticated range of a cappella vocals. Crowd pleaser, P.E.I. native **Lennie Gallant**, entranced the crowd with his original roots-rock material.

Following the intermission, **Lynn Miles** gave a wonderful performance to a crowd familiar with her music and exceptional singing style. It was a homecoming performance as Lynn had recently moved back to Ottawa. One of the delights of the evening was **Jorane**, who mesmerized the

audience with her unique cello and vocal performance. Acoustic guitar wizard **Jesse Cook** demonstrated why he is considered a virtuoso and rising star on the international stage. The crowd warmly welcomed the last act of the evening, the exceptional singer-songwriter **Greg Brown**. It was the American singer-songwriter's first Ottawa appearance. His magical but all-too-short set, featuring accompaniment from Karen Savoca, Pete Heitzman and Garnet Rogers, closed the evening in fine style.

Sunday, August 27

Sunday morning has become a popular time for lovers of gospel music at the festival. **Voices of Praise**, a local ensemble that offers a refreshing mix of gospel and soul, opened the day on the **Nortel Networks Stage**. They were followed by **Shindigo** in concert, and **Heartland Live 2**, hosted by **Bill Stunt** and featuring **Jesse Cook, Chris MacLean, John Charlton & Tannis Slimmon**. **When Old Friends Meet** featured good friends **Greg Brown, Garnet Rogers** and **Karen Savoca**. **Jesse Cook** followed, dazzling the audience with his acoustic guitar stylings. The wildly original session **Celtic & Klezmer** followed, with host **Nicholas Froment** presenting **Beyond the Pale** and **La Volée d'Castors**.

On the **Rogers Stage**, the day began with **Back 40 Live, 10 Years After**. This session celebrated the 10th anniversary of the CKCU program, *The Back Forty*, which features traditional country music. Host **Ron Moores** was joined by **Melwood Cutlery, Roy Forbes, Ball & Chain**, and **Washboard Hank**. This session was followed by the **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert**, a fun-filled session featured the whimsical bells, washboard and whistles of **Washboard Hank**, and the stepdancing youngsters of **Fast 4-Ward**. The Ottawa Valley stepdancers stayed onstage for the participatory session **Stepdancing 4 Everyone**. After, the wild and wonderful local ensemble, **The Herb Girls**, were joined by veteran western performer **Heather Bishop** in concert. Dance was the theme of the next participatory session, **Contradance for Everyone**, led by **Shindigo**. The afternoon ended on a resounding note with a **Drumming Circle** featuring **Rob Graves** of **Shindigo**.

Fine Old Traditions was the session that opened the **Phase 2 Stage** on Sunday. **Christina Smith & Jean Hewson** hosted a session showcasing Canadian traditions with **Russell Levia & Mary Gick** and **Les Crapaudes**. One of the most well-attended afternoon sessions of the festival was **20 Years of Uninterrupted Folk**, celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Canadian Spaces*, the popular CKCU show hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**. Joining Chopper were some of his favourite "Space Cadets": **Lynn Miles, Garnet Rogers**, and **Roy Forbes**. Plenty of well-wishers stayed on hand to congratulate Chopper and share some 20th anniversary cake. The **Songs of the Land** session hosted by **Luis Abanto**, explored the relationship between geography, climate and cultural expression, and featured **Tracy Riley, Hart Rouge**, and **Colores Andinos**. The fast-paced session, **Battle of the Bards** pitted poets **F'loom** with **Chris Chandler & Magda Hiller**. That was followed by **The Leading Edge**, hosted by **Tom Stewart** and featuring **Jorane** and **Darlene Sovran**. The last session of the afternoon was **Slo' Tom (Tom Stewart)** in concert.

In the Beginning kicked off the afternoon sessions on the **US Airways Stage**. Host **Bill Bourne** explored the diverse roots of Canadian music, dance, story and song with **Tri-Continental** and **La Volée d'Castors**. **American Acoustic 2** was hosted by **Angela Page**, who introduced **Odetta**,

Magda Hiller and **Eugene Ruffolo**. **Lynn Miles** hosted **The People You Love** session featuring **Lennie Gallant**, **Lucy Kaplansky**, and **Jorane**. The **Vox** session hosted by **Mike Regenstreif** celebrated the wonders of the human voice as demonstrated by **UHF**, **Hart Rouge**, and **Ball & Chain**. A special session celebrating the 20th anniversary of Rasputin's Folk Café was hosted by owner **Dean Verger** and featured **Lynn Miles**, **Eugene Ruffolo**, **David Keeble** and **Melwood Cutlery**. Plenty of fans were on hand to enjoy a spirited session celebrating the legendary Ottawa café that is an essential component of the local folk scene.

The Ragged Flowers kicked off the fun on the **Capital Double Decker & Trolley Tours Stage** with a short concert. Host **James Keelaghan** guided us on a historical journey with the help of **Ken Hamm**, **Gail Anglin**, and **Gary Farmer**. **Christina Smith & Jean Hewson** appeared next in concert. **Ken Hamm** stayed to host the **West Meets West** session, which featured an outstanding crew of westerners: **Bill Bourne** and **Lester Quitzau** of **Tri-Continental**, and **Oh Susanna**. Then it was time for a change of pace with the **New York, New York** session with Festival Director **Gene Swimmer** hosting fellow New Yorkers **Lucy Kaplansky** and **Eugene Ruffolo**. The day wound down with a splendid combination of **Words and/or Music** as **David Francey** presented **F'loom** and singing duo **Russell Levia & Mary Gick**.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** began and ended the day with practices for the **Folklore Centre Festival Choir**. The next session was one close to the heart of the Folklore Centre: **The Folk Process in Canada**. **Michael Cass-Beggs** hosted an hour of entertainment illustrating the evolution of music, dance, story and song in different parts of the country, as demonstrated by **Les Crapaudes**, and **Great Balancing Act**. In keeping with the Canadian theme, Shari Ulrich hosted the **Strong & Free** session, showcasing some of our most evocative singer-songwriters: **James Keelaghan**, **David Francey** and **Michael Cass-Beggs**. **Remembering Dario** was a moving tribute to Ottawa's much-loved musician, **Dario Domingues**, who died during the past year. **Dan Artuso**, **Ian Tamblyn**, **Nubia**, and **Colores Andinos** joined with host **Jennifer Cayley** to share stories and songs of remembrance. Dario provided many magical moments during the first six festivals, whether playing his pan pipes on the main stage, performing in daytime sessions, or helping children explore the wonders of a wide array of instruments in the family area. A concert featuring **Lennie Gallant** followed.

The **CS CO-OP Family Area** began Sunday morning on a high note, with **Dean Verger's** fun-filled session, **Storytime with Uncle Dean**. **Russell Levia**, **Les Crapaudes** and **Gail Anglin** followed with music and stories for the whole family.

The evening of concerts on the **Nortel Networks Stage** opened with the energetic stepdancing of **Fast 4-Ward**. The **Folklore Centre Festival Choir**, directed by Jann Maloney-Brooks, delivered a beautiful set of heartfelt songs. **La Volée d'Castors**, a twenty-something ensemble of six Quebec musicians, demonstrated why they are one of the province's most popular young groups. **UHF**, otherwise known as Shari Ulrich, Bill Henderson, and Roy Forbes, share common musical roots stretching back three decades in British Columbia. As always, they delivered a tuneful and harmonious set, as one might expect from musical friends who all happen to be excellent musicians.

After a brief intermission, the group **Tri-Continental**, consisting of **Bill Bourne**, **Lester Quitzsau** and **Madagascar Slim**, delivered an excellent and eclectic set. **Garnet Rogers** gave a gracious speech when he accepted the **Helen Verger Award** for his valuable contributions to Canadian folk music. He completely won over the crowd with an energized, rocking set that exemplified his musical genius as a master storyteller and a singer of songs from the heart.

Some of the brightest moments of the millennium CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival, however, took place in almost total darkness during a performance by folk music veteran, **Odetta**. She opened her set by leading the audience in a rousing singalong rendition of “This Little Light of Mine,” and was just beginning the song “Careless Blues” when a power failure plunged the main stage and surrounding area into darkness. The audience spontaneously broke into “This Little Light” once again as people shone their flashlights to illuminate her, while backstage, workers scrambled to find portable lanterns to provide some light onstage. The effect was exhilarating, as the diminutive woman led the audience in song for half an hour, without the benefits of elaborate lighting or a sound system. Her unamplified voice rang strong and true, carrying to the edge of the crowd.

Odetta seemed undaunted by the disruption, and graciously continued her performance, asking the audience to call out a request for a song they could all sing together. She settled on “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” and led the willing audience in several verses as they swayed back and forth in time with the music.

The audience was entranced by the diminutive Odetta, who was wearing a maroon and yellow turban and a bejeweled scarf. She also sang two “field hollers”, getting the audience to help out on the choruses. Drummer Kebba Jobateh accompanied her from the audience on one song before partial power was restored and Odetta’s piano accompanist rejoined her onstage. She picked up where she had left off, with the song “Careless Love,” and followed with blues standards including “St. Louis Woman,” and “Weeping Know How”. She finished the set with “This Little Light of Mine” and was greeted for her encore of “Willow Blues,” “Poor Man Blues” and “You Got To” with a well-deserved standing ovation.

Her performance was followed by a short set from Canadian super group **Hart Rouge**, who opened their performance with an evocative a cappella version of the Neil Young classic, “Helpless.” And so ended the seventh annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival.

Financial Support

The festival received financial support from the proceeds of a series of benefit concerts held at a variety of venues in Ottawa. The 1999-2000 CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival concerts included the following:

November 27, 1999: **Fred Eaglesmith** and **Fireweed** at Barrymore’s.

December 11, 1999: **The Arrogant Worms** and **Chris White** at First Unitarian Congregation.

January 28, 2000: **Cindy Church** and **J.P. Cormier**, National Library Auditorium.

February 18, 2000: **Karen Savoca** and **Vance Gilbert**, National Library Auditorium.

March 24, 2000: **Connie Kaldor** and **David Francey**, National Library Auditorium.

April 14, 2000: **Bill Morrissey** and **Kathryn Briggs**, National Library Auditorium.

May 27, 2000: **Laura Smith** and **Terry Tufts**, National Library Auditorium.

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival thanks the following sponsors, partners and suppliers: Nortel Networks, *The Ottawa Citizen*, CS CO-OP, Days Inn Ottawa West, Phase 2, The Ottawa Folklore Centre, Canadian Heritage, National Library of Canada, City of Ottawa, Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, Human Resources Development Canada, Ontario Arts Council, CKCU-FM, Rogers Television, *XPress*, CBC Radio One, Canada NewsWire, Steve's Music Store, Indigo, Nutshell Music, The SOCAN Foundation, Integral Acoustics, Bell Mobility, Chapters, LoonySaver, The Food Bank, VIA Rail Canada, US Airways, Capital Double Decker & Trolley Tours, Michael Davies Plymouth Chrysler Limited, D'Arcy Moving and Storage, The Loeb Glebe, Ginn: The Photography Store, Alexander Keith's, Coca-Cola and Key West Loaded Soda.

Year 8 (2001)

2001: A Folk Odyssey

Photos

The **2001 CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival**, held August 24 to 26 at Britannia Park, had a stellar lineup of performers. American folk hero **John Prine** thrilled the capacity audience with a two-hour concert. Canadian folk icons **Kate and Anna McGarrigle** were awarded the **Helen Verger Award**, while up-and-comer **Evalyn Parry** was presented with the first annual **Beth Ferguson Award**. CBC broadcaster and storyteller **Stuart McLean** was on hand throughout the weekend, including during a session where he read letters from overseas CUSO volunteers.

Festival organizers were over the moon. “It was our most successful festival ever,” commented Festival Director **Gene Swimmer**. “Seeing the crowd waiting for John Prine was awesome. I couldn’t help thinking about a rainy Sunday morning eight years ago when I was pretty sure nobody would show up, and there would never be a second Ottawa Folk Festival.”

Co-founder and Artistic Director **Chris White** said the 2001 Ottawa Folk Festival was the most elaborate one ever presented in terms of the number of performers, the number of stages, the diversity of the program, and the number of attendees. “In spite of this unprecedented scope, the festival was also the smoothest one ever,” said White. “I love the way all aspects of the festival have evolved over the years, and the way the audience embraces the variety of programming we present.”

With the theme of **One Canada, Many Cultures**, the eighth annual festival presented five special theme sessions and showcased First Nations, Québécois, African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean musicians. The featured musicians included **Celso Machado, Juan José Carranza, The Mighty Popo, Galitcha, George Sapounidis, Jeremy Moyer, Qiu Xia He, Women Ah Run Tings, Ball & Chain, El Hadi and Pierre Schryer. Chopper McKinnon and Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

During the 2001 festival, we also paid tribute to Ottawa Folklore Centre co-founder **Terry Penner** and blues musician **Larry “The Bird” Mootham**, who both passed away since the last festival. The festival’s choir was renamed **The Terry Penner Weekend Choir**, and a one-hour tribute session to Larry called **The Bird Still Flies**, was held on Sunday.

Friday, August 24

Friday evening opened with the thundering rhythms of Japanese traditional drumming group, **Oto-Wa Taiko**, followed by Ottawa Folklore Centre owner **Arthur McGregor** performing an acoustic guitar version of “O Canada.” **Raggamuffin**, a lively reggae fusion band, next took the stage. The audience was then treated to a reunion of the folk band **Pied Pumkin**, whose members include **Rick Scott, Shari Ulrich and Joe Mock**. The group’s last Ottawa festival performance was at the **Festival for the Folks** in 1976.

Following the intermission, festival goers warmly applauded a captivating performance by **Jesse Winchester**, a popular American-born musician and songwriter who has lived in Canada since the sixties. **The Wyrd Sisters** performed with their usual aplomb, their set running the gamut of styles from jazz to folk. Controversial Cape Breton fiddler **Ashley MacIsaac** caused a sensation when he launched into a whirlwind-paced set accompanied by **John Allan Cameron** on guitar. Hard pressed to keep up with MacIsaac's frenetic fiddling, Cameron displayed characteristic Maritime humour when he opened a song with the comment "Now I'm going to do a song Ashley has never heard." The evening ended with a set of hard-driving story songs by **Fred Eaglesmith**, to the delight of the many Fredheads in the crowd. His six-piece band included both **Willie P. Bennett** and **Washboard Hank**.

Saturday, August 25

This year, the festival added a new daytime stage located in the food court area. In all, there were eight daytime stages, which started at 11:00 a.m. and ran all afternoon. Festival goers had to make sometimes difficult choices of which session to attend in a given time period. Fortunately, because of the informal nature of the festival, it was possible to move between the stages during daytime sessions.

Artistic Director **Chris White** was happy to see so many people arrive at the festival early in the day to enjoy the many opportunities for participation, as well as the unique performances. "There is a definite element of magic in the spirit of community that exists in that beautiful park by the river, and in the activities that take place there during the day," White commented.

The **CS CO-OP Family Area** offered a variety of entertainment, workshops and activities, including face painting, instrument making, hat and jewelry making, bubble blowing, tie-dyeing and papier-mâché making.

On the **Nortel Networks Stage**, Saturday morning opened with a special live broadcast of the longest-running folk radio show in Canada: **CKCU's Canadian Spaces**. The session was hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**, with guests **Joe Bishop & Kendall Sullivan**, **Roy Forbes**, **Selina Martin** and **Terry Tufts**. **Ron Moores** hosted the second half of the broadcast, billed as **CKCU FM Back Forty**, with guests **David Francey**, **Jenny and Dan Whiteley**, **Michele & John Law** and **Willie P. Bennett**. The next session, **CBC Radio's Bandwidth Live**, was hosted by **Bill Stunt** and showcased the talents of **Don Ross**, **Ember Swift** and **The Cash Brothers**. **Shari Ulrich** hosted the session **Shari and Her Boyfriends**, with **Rick Scott**, **Joe Mock**, **Roy Forbes** and **Jesse Winchester**.

The **Ontario. More to Discover Stage** located inside Lakeside Gardens, offered a diverse range of performers. The session alt.folk@satursday.com featured host **Ember Swift** with **First Chance Saloon** winners, **alicide**, and **Darlene**. **Dean Verger** hosted **Rasputin's Folk Café** with guests **Kevin Cardamore**, **Nicholas Williams** and **Shari Ulrich**. The **Rick Scott for Kids** family concert was well attended. **My Favourite Things** was hosted by **Dan Whiteley** and **Joey Wright**, with guests **Joe Bishop** and **Selina Martin**. The participatory session **Dansez** was led by **Joséphine**. **Derek Debeer**, a former member of the South African band **Jonny Clegg and Savuka**, led a drumming circle with enthusiastic audience participation.

The **Phase 2 Stage** on the hill opened with the lively session **Six Strings, Many Cultures**, hosted by **The Mighty Popo** and featuring **Celso Machado**, and **Juan José Carranza**. **Stephen Fearing** hosted the session **Sharing Our Stories** with **Kris Northey**, **Marcel Bénéteau** and **Willie Dunn**. The **Jay Willis Band** and the **Jenny Whiteley Band** performed in a double bill. The **Have Song, Will Travel** session featured host **Jim Bryson**, **Fred Eaglesmith**, **Kendall Sullivan** and **Stephen Fearing**. The fast-paced **Fiddle Fever** session showcased the music of host **Oliver Schroer**, **Anne Lindsay**, **Ashley MacIsaac**, **Pierre Lessard**, **Pierre Schryer** and **Valerie Vigoda**. **Mary Gick** appeared in the last session of the day.

The **Rogers Stage**, located around the corner from the **Phase 2 Stage**, opened with a double bill featuring the Ottawa bands **Siobhan** and **Satellite**. A tribute to the popular Quebec club, **The Black Sheep Inn**, was hosted by **Paul Symes** and featured **Darlene**, **Fred Eaglesmith**, **Susan Werner** and **Jim Bryson**. The **East Coast Kitchen Party** was a spirited musical celebration. It featured host **Greg T. Brown**, **Ashley MacIsaac**, **Siobhan**, and surprise guest **Pierre Schryer**, who was rushed in from the airport just time to join in the fun. **Spirit Wind** hosted the **Harmony** session with **The Cash Brothers** and **The Wyrd Sisters**. **Jesse Winchester** earned a standing ovation at the finale of the **Beyond Borders** session with **Michele & John Law** and host **David Francey**. The daytime entertainment ended with the eclectic **Anne Lindsay Band**.

The **Capital Double Decker & Trolley Tours Stage** wins the award for longest stage name! The stage, located in the west field, opened with a double bill featuring **Jason Fowler** and **Kris Northey**. **Spirit Wind** hosted the session **When the Spirit Moves You** featuring **El Hadi** and **Kiva**. The entertainment also included two more double bills: **Anne Lindsay Band**, and **Michele & John Law**, as well as **Terry Tufts** and **Willie Dunn**. Guitarist extraordinaire **Don Ross** hosted the session **A Sense of Place**, with **Oliver Schroer** and **Marcel Bénéteau**. **Michael Jerome Browne's** half-hour concert was the final performance of the day.

The **OFC Music Stage**, sponsored by the Ottawa Folklore Centre, offered a splendid afternoon of participatory sessions. The first session, **Sacred Harp Singing** with **Shelley Posen**, introduced the audience to this American style of singing. **Wendy Moore** presented an **Introduction to Stepdancing**. **Willie P. Bennett** hosted the **Harmonica Workshop**, and **Arthur McGregor** hosted the **Rise Up Singing** singalong. There was also a rehearsal of the **Terry Penner Weekend Choir** and a **Musical Mentor Showcase** featuring **Terry Tufts** and teachers and students of the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Canadian Musical Mentor** program.

The **CKCU 93.1 FM Stage** located in the food court, held captivating concerts with **Ian Bell**; Chinese pipa player **Qiu Xia He**; **Joséphine**; First and Last Chance Saloon winners: **alicide**, **Kevin Cardamore**, and **The Jay Willis Band**; and **Spirit Wind**. The **Hot, Hot, Hot** session featured a spicy menu of performers, including **Juan José Carranza** (host), **Celso Machado** and **Women Ah Run Tings**.

The **CS CO-OP Family Stage** in the family area opened the day with a **Drumming and Music** session with **Spirit Wind**. **Nicky Brodie** of **Salamander Theatre** hosted **A World of Stories**, followed by **Just Kidding** with **George Sapounidis**. **Michael Jerome Browne** appeared in the wonderfully named **Tap, Clap, Snap** session. **Fit As a Fiddle** featured **Pierre Lessard**. **Ian Bell**

hosted **The Good Old Days** session. The afternoon entertainment ended with Dean Verger's **Storytime with Uncle Dean**.

The **CS CO-OP Family Crafts** area featured demonstrations on how to make: sun-catchers (Thomas and Naomi Burke of Glass Works), jewelry (Heather Boyd of Filament), wood plaques (Ron Tremback of Solar Woodcuts), and sock puppets (Phil Boyko of Valen Enterprises).

The featured concerts on the **Nortel Networks Stage** began on Saturday afternoon with concerts featuring the jazzy alternative music of **Ember Swift** and the country-tinged rock from **The Cash Brothers**. The vibrant group **Women Ah Run Tings** exploded onstage in bursts of colour and sound, with their heady mixture of reggae, hip-hop, R&B and funk/rock. Gypsy-flamenco guitarist **Juan José Carranza** performed with his six-piece band. Bluegrass was the predominant theme of an evocative set by the **Jenny Whiteley Band**.

The first **Beth Ferguson Award**, honouring the late singer-songwriter, was presented to **Evalyn Parry** for her ability to convey human experiences with relevance, intensity and wit through her music. Singer-songwriter **Beth Ferguson**, who died in 1999, was widely admired for the beauty and clarity of her songs, and for her commitment to communicating honestly about women's experiences.

Passionate singer-songwriter **Stephen Fearing** was in fine form during his set, wowing the audience with his inimitable guitar playing and intense lyrics. The zany francophone duo **Polly-Esther** captivated the audience with their folk-rock music.

After sunset, **John Prine** came onstage to a wildly cheering sold-out crowd, many of whom were thrilled to see the American folk music legend for the first time. With his excellent band, Prine maintained the excitement for two hours, playing hit after hit, recent tunes, a four-song encore, and a duet with Jesse Winchester. The evening didn't end there for some of John Prine's fans. About a dozen diehard Prine fans stayed on long after the concert ended, singing his songs under the stars.

Sunday, August 26

On Sunday morning, the entertainment on the **Nortel Networks Stage** began with **Galitcha in Concert**. This eminently listenable group performed East Indian folkloric music fused with jazz, classical Indian and Latin styles. The **Family Ties** session included, appropriately enough, **Kate & Anna McGarrigle**, **Northern Sons**, and **The Wyrd Sisters**. The **One Canada, Many Cultures** session echoed the theme of this year's festival, and featured a variety of styles presented by host **Pierre Schryer**, **El Hadi**, **George Sapounidis Trio** and **Ball & Chain**. **Kathy Grant Mahon & Chosen** hosted the gospel-influenced **Sing Out** session. The **Northern Sons** session featured a set with this Ottawa Valley bluegrass band. Ottawa singer-songwriter **Jim Bryson** presented his well-crafted songs blending rock and folk. The Ottawa band **Cheza** performed some of their danceable, African-inspired music.

The **Ontario. More to Discover Stage** started the day with a session titled **3 x 2**, which featured three sets of two duos: **Clear** (**Christian Patterson & Sue Johnson**), **Joe Bishop & Kendall Sullivan**, and **Michele & John Law**.

The **Phase 2 Stage** started the day with the fascinating session **Speaking Out**, with host **Elana Harte, Evalyn Parry, Kris Northey** and **Susan Werner**. **Musical Journeys**, hosted by **Marcel Bénéteau**, included **Pangur Ban** and **Zainab Amadahy** of **Spirit Wind**. The joyful **Acoustic Waves Turns 20** session was hosted by **Joe Reilly** and featured performers who had appeared in this renowned Ottawa folk music series: **Celso Machado, Oliver Schroer** and **The Wyrld Sisters**.

The Bird Still Flies was a moving musical tribute to the life of the late blues musician **Larry “The Bird” Mootham**. Hosted by **Vince Halfhide**, this session featured Larry’s former student **Southside Steve, The Mighty Popo** and **Johnny Russell**.

East Meets West showcased the talents of host **George Sapounidis, Galitcha, Jeremy Moyer** and **Qiu Xia He**. The daytime entertainment on the **Phase 2 Stage** closed following a half-hour concert with **Ball & Chain (Michael Ball and Jody Benjamin)**.

Just around the corner, the **Rogers Stage** drew a capacity crowd at **The Vinyl Café Live** with host **Stuart McLean, Arnie Naiman & Kathy Reid, Ian Bell** and **Michael Jerome Brown**. The youthful session alt.folk@sunday.com featured host **Selina Martin, Jim Bryson** and **Polly-Esther**. **The Celtic Rathskallions** hosted **Electricism(e)**, which also showcased **Joséphine**. **Ian Bell** led the **Musical Traditions** session with **Arnie Naiman & Kathy Reid** and **Kate & Anna McGarrigle**. Host **Michael Jerome Browne, Darlene, Southside Steve, Suzie Vinnick** and **Vince Halfhide** were featured in the **Blues Everywhere I Go** session. The Rogers Stage wound down with **Nicholas Williams** in concert.

The **Capital Double Decker & Trolley Tours Stage** opened with a double bill featuring **Marcel Bénéteau** and **Pierre Lessard**. Next, famed fiddler **Pierre Schryer** took the stage. Host **Vince Halfhide, Southside Steve, Lady Luscious (Women Ah Run Tings)** and **Michael Jerome Browne** performed in the session **Music Moves Me**. Three double bills followed, showcasing the following performers: **Selina Martin** and **VSH**; **Joe Bishop & Kendall Sullivan** and **Susan Werner**; and **Evalyn Parry** and **Polly-Esther**.

The **OFC Music Stage** at the point opened with a **Terry Penner Weekend Choir Rehearsal** led by **Andy Rush**. **Andy Daub** presented the session **Tin Whistle for Beginners**. The **Gospel Sing** session was hosted by **Anna Williams**. **Duncan Gillis** demonstrated during the **Bodhran for Beginners** session. **The Celtic Rathskallions Kid’s Show** was up next, followed by a second **Terry Penner Weekend Choir Rehearsal**. **Tracy Vilbert’s** session, **Learn to Belly Dance**, wound down the day’s entertainment.

The **CKCU 93.1 FM Stage** in the food court featured a series of concerts with the following excellent performers: **Pangur Ban, VSH, Darlene, Arnie Naiman & Kathy Reid, George Sapounidis Trio, El Hadi, David Francey** and **Clear**.

The **CS CO-OP Family Stage** began the day with the **Music Plus** session featuring **The Celtic Rathskallions**. **Celso Machado** followed with a **Children’s Concert**. **The Rag & Bone Puppet**

Theatre staged a kid's show titled *Secrets of Puppeteers*. **Monica Wolfe** presented two **Kindermusik** sessions. A **Sunshine Parade** ended the day's entertainment. Kids young and old walked across the grounds, playing instruments and displaying articles made in the craft workshops.

The **CS CO-OP Family Crafts** featured demonstrations on how to make: sun-catchers (Thomas and Naomi Burke of Glass Works), clay whistles (Brian Harper of Harper Pottery), and candles (Greg Brayford of Doozy Candle).

As the song goes, some days the rain must fall. And Saturday evening, the rain came down in a torrent of water, which shut down the main stage for two hours. Undaunted, many of the festival goers crowded into Lakeside Gardens, returning when the entertainment resumed on the **Nortel Networks Stage**. While indoors, the audience was treated to a magical performance from the **Terry Penner Weekend Choir**, whose enthusiasm had not been dampened by the rainstorm.

The entertainment on the **Nortel Networks Stage** opened with **Joséphine**. CBC Radio's **Stuart McLean** was up next, followed by singer-songwriter **Susan Werner**. **Celso Machado** and **Qiu Xia He** performed an exotic set combining music played on the guitar and the pipa, a traditional Chinese instrument. **Kate & Anna McGarrigle** performed and were also presented with the **Helen Verger Award** for their valuable contributions to Canadian folk music. Since releasing their first album in 1976, the sisters have won two Juno Awards and attained international renown for their delicate harmonies, sensitive lyrics, and rootsy North American sound. The festival wrapped up with the set from fiddling sensation **Pierre Schryer**.

Benefit Concert Series

The festival held a series of benefit concerts held at a variety of venues in Ottawa. The 2000-2001 CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Benefit Concert series included the following: TO BE ADDED.

Financial Support

The CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival thanks the following sponsors, partners and suppliers: Nortel Networks, *The Ottawa Citizen*, Rogers Television, OFC Music (The Ottawa Folklore Centre), Days Inn Ottawa West, Canadian Heritage, City of Ottawa, National Library of Canada, Ontario. More to Discover, Human Resources Development Canada, Ontario Arts Council, CKCU-FM, CBC Radio One, *Xpress*, Canada NewsWire, Steve's Music Store, algorithms Inc., Nutshell Music, Roger's AT&T Wireless, Phase 2, The Food Bank, Dr. John L. Kershman, Hampton Inn, Integral Acoustics, CS CO-OP, The SOCAN Foundation, Bowie Electrical Services, Capital Double Decker Trolley Tours, Michael Davies Plymouth Chrysler Ltd., D'Arcy Moving and Storage, Loeb Glebe, Herb & Spice Shop, Alexander Keith's, Coca-Cola and Key West Loaded Soda.

Year 9 (2002)

East Meets West at Britannia Park

Photos

The year 2002 brought both Eastern and Western musical traditions and performers to the ninth annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival. “Our theme this year is ‘East Meets West’, both geographically and culturally,” said Artistic Director **Chris White** in an interview in *The Ottawa Citizen*, “and I think that stimulated us to be even more adventurous in our programming.”

Festival-goers were treated to musical acts from Eastern and Western Canada as well as to performers whose music combined Eastern and Western musical influences. The East Coast was represented by **Blacks Mountain** and **Les Muses**, two female groups from New Brunswick; as well as Nova Scotia acts **The Cottars** and **Slàinte Mhath**, and Newfoundland’s **Ron Hynes**. Ottawa’s own finger-picking guitarist **Terry Tufts** was an example of the fine talent featured from Ontario. Performers from Western Canada included **The Bill Hilly Band** and **Mae Moore** from British Columbia, and **The Wailin’ Jennys** from Manitoba. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

Diverse musical styles combining Eastern and Western influences included three groups with East Indian and North American influences: **Toronto Tabla Ensemble**, **Harry Manx** and **Galitcha**. Ottawa performer **George Sapounidis**, sings in eight languages and he and his group perform music from Greek, Chinese, African and Western traditions. The **Khac Chi Ensemble** from Vancouver mesmerized the audience with traditional Vietnamese music.

Festival goers seem pleased with both the location and atmosphere of the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival. In an informal audience poll, emcee Karen Flanagan McCarthy asked the crowd if they wanted the festival to stay at Britannia Park or move downtown. The crowd indicated it wants the festival to stay put. “I think we have the best quality of life of any festival,” said Festival Director Gene Swimmer in *The Ottawa Citizen*. “We don’t want to be the biggest festival, we want to be a good middle-sized festival.”

Friday, August 23

The 2002 festival kicked off with the Afro-Brazilian rhythms of the percussion group **Samba Ottawa**, who drummed and danced their way in a lively procession from the festival gates to the main stage. Ottawa **Mayor Bob Chiarelli** welcomed the crowd and gave a short speech and was followed by **Arthur McGregor**, who performed his customary charming acoustic version of *O Canada*. The evening’s entertainment began with **Khac Chi Ensemble**, a Vancouver husband and wife duo who perform traditional Vietnamese music. Engaging American singer-songwriter **Bill Morrissey** was followed by **Les Batinses**, a Quebec world music group and **Blacks Mountain**, a female bluegrass quartet from New Brunswick.

After the intermission, **Harry Manx** brought the crowd to its feet with his unique blues guitar playing seasoned with East Indian influences. The music swung to traditional Celtic with **The**

Cottars, a group of four youngsters from Cape Breton. The evening ended with a bluesy set from the two “Colins” – guitar wizards **Colin James** and **Colin Linden**.

The after hours entertainment included **Chris MacLean**, **Rachael Sage** and **Harry Manx** at the **Days Inn West**. **The Wailin’ Jennys**, **Les Batinsés** and **Slàinte Mhath** performed after hours at **D’arcy McGee’s Bells Corners**.

Saturday, August 24

Daytime entertainment was provided on seven stages. The **CKCU-FM Family Area** hosted a variety of crafts, music and activities for children and their families. Another popular festival feature was the **Craft Village**, featuring 20 artisans.

The **CUPE Main Stage** featured a “live-ly” installment of the CKCU-FM folk show, “**Canadian Spaces**”, hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**. The stellar talent on hand to perform for an appreciative audience included **Mae Moore**, **Garnet Rogers** and **The Anne Lindsay Band**. This was followed by **Back Forty Live** hosted by **Ron Moores**. **Blacks Mountain**, **Ron Hynes** and **The Bill Hilly Band** joined Ron and performed for an enthusiastic crowd. The afternoon also included an infusion of energy with **Espresso Music** featuring **Norouet**, a Quebec trio that plays a blend of French, Irish, Swedish and Eastern European music.

Manitoba trio **The Wailin’ Jennys** sang original tunes with breathtaking harmonies, followed by New Brunswick female quartet, **Les Muses**, **Norouet** and **The Anne Lindsay Band**.

Over on the **Phase 2 Stage**, the fun kicked off with **Heather McLeod**, an eclectic singer-songwriter from Montreal who combines jazz, flamenco, Aboriginal rhythms and sixties folk influences in her charming compositions. British guitar icon **Richard Thompson**, a founding member of the influential folk-rock band **Fairport Convention**, amazed the audience with his intriguing lyrics and stunning guitar playing. Violin music featured prominently in the double bill with **GrooveLily** and **The Anne Lindsay Band**. The session **Madly Off...** featured madcap performers including host **Nancy White** and featuring **Lorne Elliott** and **Jack Grunsky**. The **Hook, Line and Sinker** session was hosted by **Bill Morrissey** and featured two talented fishermen: **Garnet Rogers** and **Greg Brown**.

The first session on the **Rogers Stage** was the **Vocal Beauty** session, hosted by **Catherine Crowe**, a traditional singer who combines modern expression and Old World restraint. The bevy of vocal beauties featured included **Les Muses** and **The Wailin’ Jennys**. Next up was a set with **Mad Violet**, a guitar/fiddle duo, consisting of singer-songwriter **Brenley MacEachern** and fiddler **Lisa MacIsaac** (Ashley’s sister). This was followed by Keith’s Kitchen Party 1: a lively session sponsored by Alexander Keith’s featuring hosts **Mad Violet**, three members of the contemporary Celtic group **Slàinte Mhath**, and **The Cottars**, four Cape Breton youngsters who specialize in traditional material. The next session, **The Story Behind the Song**, featured three masters of songwriting representing different countries: host **Garnet Rogers** (Canada), **Richard Thompson** (England) and **Bill Morrissey** (United States). The humorously named **Flamingo Double Bill** showcased the talents of flamenco guitarist **James Cohen** and guests. Another double bill ended the day with sets from American singer-songwriter **Karen Savoca**, whose

music combines soul, R&B and world rhythms, and sisters **Nerissa & Katryna Nields**, a duo known for their sublime harmonies.

The **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage** kicked off the day with the flamboyant **Rachael Sage**, an American singer-songwriter who was a recent winner in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest. Quebec world music ensemble **Les Batinses** followed. **A Family Concert** featured children's performer **Jack Grunsky** and juggler and "nouveau vaudevillian" **Aytahn Ross**. Crowd participation was encouraged at **A Contra Dance for Everyone** with musical accompaniment by **Flapjack** and caller **Catherine Burns**. **The Power of Love** was the theme of the next session, which was hosted by **Harry Manx** and featured satirical songwriter **Nancy White**, **Rachael Sage** and Newfoundland singer-songwriter **Ron Hynes**. The day ended on an upbeat note with a dance with the irrepressible Maritime traditional band **Slàinte Mhath**.

The **Bowie Electric Stage** opened with a set by Patricia Murray and was followed by a session with **Les Muses**. **Tara MacKenzie** performed next, in a duo featuring voices, harp and cello. The **David Woodhead Trio** played a set fronted by the trio's leader, who is a master of the fretless electric bass. That performance was followed by sets with **Serena Ryder** and **Mad Violet**.

The **CKCU-FM Family Stage** was the ideal place for people of all ages. Sessions included **World of Wonders 1 with Aytahn Ross**, **Uncle Dean's Storytime**, featuring storyteller and Rasputin's Folk Café owner Dean Verger, **Kindermusik**, an early childhood movement and music program, **Songs for All Ages with Heather McLeod**, **World of Wonders 2 with Aytahn Ross**, **The Cottars for Kids**, and **Hocus Pocus with Doctor Magic (George Sapounidis)**.

The **algorithms inc. Stage** opened with a session titled **Inn the Black Sheep**, hosted by **Paul Symes**, owner of the popular Wakefield, Quebec venue **The Black Sheep Inn**. Peterborough vocalist **Serena Ryder**, singer-songwriter and acoustic guitar player **Cliff Eberhardt** and guitarist extraordinaire **Harry Manx** performed in this eclectic session. The **Sister Song 1** session, hosted by **Mae Moore**, also showcased the talents of singer-songwriters **Heather McLeod** and **Serena Ryder**. This session was followed by a set with the world music ensemble, the **Sapounidis Trio**. The **American Acoustic** session, named for the CKCU-FM radio show, was hosted by **Karen Savoca** and featured **Nerissa & Katryna Nields** and singer-songwriter **Greg Brown**. The day ended with a double bill with **Flapjack**, a group whose four members play a blend of fiddle tunes, original songs and early swing, and **Patricia Murray**, a native of Prince Edward Island who is a singer-songwriter in the folk and Celtic traditions.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Teaching Stage** provided participatory sessions in several musical forms including **Learn to Play Middle Eastern Rhythms** with **Devin Johnstone**, **Learn to Play the Didgeridoo** with **Rob Pellier**, **Learn "Shape Note Singing"** with **John Henderson**, **Learn to Play the Bodhran** with **Duncan Gillis**, **Rise Up Singing for Everyone** with Ottawa Folklore Centre owner **Arthur McGregor** and **Learn to Play the Tin Whistle** with **Andy Daub**. A choir rehearsal was also held for the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir**, named in memory of the late **Terry Penner**, cofounder of **The Ottawa Folklore Centre**.

The **CKCU-FM Family Craft Area** hosted sessions teaching you to make a Native American ash basket, with **Marilyn Kromberg-Todd** and **Robert Todd of Tribal Spirit**, and how to make stained glass mosaics with **Thomas and Naomi Burke of Glass Works by Burkes**.

The Saturday evening entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** opened with a sensational set with melodic Canadian singer-songwriter **Mae Moore**, followed by the innovative and energetic New York City trio **GrooveLily**, featuring the violin stylings of **Valerie Vigoda**. CBC Radio favourite, comedian **Lorne Elliott**, entertained the crowd with his madcap comedy routine. The **Beth Ferguson Award** was presented to **Darlene, Nerissa and Katryna Nields**, two sisters whose music has been described as sublime harmonies and Generation X angst, also performed.

The Toronto Tabla Ensemble performed an entrancing set following the intermission, combining the traditional music of the tabla, a North Indian drum, with world music influences including jazz. American singer-songwriter **Greg Brown** demonstrated why his music has inspired an intensely loyal fan base across North America. The crowd enthusiastically greeted the legendary British guitar virtuoso **Richard Thompson**, whose intriguing lyrics and stunning guitar skills have won him a huge following worldwide. *Ottawa Sun* reporter Denis Armstrong described Thompon's performance as follows: "In a dazzling, funny and touching solo performance, Thompson proved to still be the quintessential folkie, the aging artist at the height of his powers, who still burns with a telling story and a sense of social justice that hasn't aged in 40 years." Armstrong added that "Thompson had all 5,500 fans, including many of the weekend's featured performers, hanging off his every word." The evening ended with a lively set from **Slàinte Mhath**, the Canadian Maritime group who perform traditional Celtic music with a twist on tradition.

The after hours entertainment at the **Days Inn West** included **Les Muses**, **Cliff Eberhardt** and **Ron Hynes**. **The Wailin' Jennys**, **Les Batinses** and **Slàinte Mhath** performed after hours at **D'arcy McGee's Bells Corners**.

Sunday, August 25

The entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** began with **Bandwidth Live**, a recording for the CBC Radio show, "**Bandwidth**", hosted by **Bill Stunt**. The participants included guitar virtuoso **Terry Tufts**, duo **Mad Violet** and flamenco guitarist **James Cohen**. **Mike Regenstreif** hosted the **Short Stories That Rhyme** session with songwriters **Ron Hynes**, **Cliff Eberhardt**, and **Bill Morrissey**. **Calasaig**, an energetic five-piece band from Scotland, who performs traditional music from the British Isles as well as original compositions performed next. They were followed by a session showcasing vocalist and percussionist **Karen Savoca**, accompanied by her partner, guitarist **Pete Heitzman**. Ottawa blues musician **Tony D** and duo **Mad Violet** also performed individual sets. The daytime entertainment ended with a performance by the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir** directed by **Michael MacDonald**.

In the Tradition was the opening session on the **Phase 2 Stage**. It was hosted by **Tara MacKenzie** and featured **Châkidor**, a Québécois band showcasing the talents of acoustic guitar player and singer **André Varin** and violinist **Valérie Pichon**. **Sister Song 2**, hosted by **Rachael Sage**, featured American "rock folk" performer **Melissa Ferrick** and Australian singer-

songwriter **Emma Wall**. Ottawa Valley folk music aficionado **Brian Crook** was the host of a session called **Traditions Coast to Coast** featuring **The Bill Hilly Band** and **The Cottars**. A double bill with **Châkidor** and **Patricia Murray** followed. The day ended on a Celtic note with **Keith's Kitchen Party 2** featuring host **Calasaig**, **Tara MacKenzie**, **Patricia Murray** and Grand North American Fiddle Champion **Ivonne Hernandez**.

The **Rogers Stage** began the day with **The Flower Hour**, hosted by CBC "Radio Noon" host **Dave Stephens** and featuring garden guru **Ed Lawrence**, Festival co-emcee **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** and **GrooveLily**. **Femmes Fiddles** featured female fiddlers **Anne Lindsay**, **Valerie Vigoda** and **Ivonne Hernandez**. The **Global Guitars** session showcased the instrumental brilliance of host **Terry Tufts**, and **Harry Manx**. Finally, the thought-provoking **Songs with a Message** session hosted by **Melissa Ferrick** featured two stellar songwriters: **Greg Brown** and **Garnet Rogers**.

The **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage** opened with a lively set from the **Toronto Tabla Ensemble**, who also hosted the next session, **East Meets West 2**, featuring the **George Sapounidis Trio**. A **Family Concert** followed, showcasing Jack Grunsky, the **Inuit Cultural Performers** and Ottawa music therapist **Kim Kilpatrick**. The cleverly named session, **You Say Savoca, I Say Savuca**, featured percussionist **Derek Debeer** (formerly of the African band Johnny Clegg and Savuca), and American singer and percussionist **Karen Savoca**. The passionate rhythms continued with the session **Drum-Along with Derek**, hosted by **Derek Debeer**.

Diverse cultural elements were in evidence on the **Bowie Electrical Stage**. Champion teenage fiddler **Ivonne Hernandez** started the day off, and was followed by **Inuit Cultural Performers**, **Galitcha**, **GrooveLily**, **Calasaig**, **The Cottars**, and the upbeat ensemble Offbeat, a 25-member percussion group that uses unconventional instruments.

The **CKCU-FM Family Stage** started with the session **Silly Songs**, featuring humorous tunes composed and performed by Festival Artistic Director **Chris White**. **Kim Kilpatrick** followed with **Dog Tales**, while **Nancy White** performed hilarious songs during the **Momnipotent** session, featuring songs from the album of the same name. A session with **Kindermusik** was followed by **Move to the Music** featuring **Toronto Tabla Ensemble**. **Inuit Cultural Performers** hosted the **Dance to the Beat** session. The day wound down with a **Sunshine Parade**, where the young and young at heart could participate in a happy and noisy procession leading to the main stage.

The **algorithms inc. Stage** hosted five double bills featuring **Emma Wall** and **Rachael Sage**, **Chris McLean** and **Mae Moore**, **Jim Bryson** and **Nerissa & Katryna Nields**, **Ron Hynes** and **Melissa Ferrick**, and **Cliff Eberhardt** and **Harry Manx**. The **East Meets West 3** session was hosted by **Galitcha**, an Ottawa ensemble that combines traditional East Indian music with contemporary and world influences, and featured **Harry Manx**.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Teaching Stage** opened with a rehearsal of the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir**. This was followed by various teaching sessions including **Learn to Play Acoustic Blues Guitar** with **Vince Halfhide**, **Learn to Play Harmonica** with **Southside Steve**, **Learn to Belly Dance** with **Tracey Vibert**. The day's fun also included a **Musical**

Mentor Showcase with **Terry Tufts**, and **Gospel Singing for Everyone** featuring local blues vocalist **Maria Hawkins**.

At the **CKCU-FM Family Craft Area**, participants had the opportunity to make several different crafts, including jewelry (with **Heather Boyd** of Filament), a piece of wooden fretwork (with **Ron Tremback** of Solar Woodcuts), and stained glass mosaics (with **Thomas and Naomi Burke** of Glass Works by Burkes).

Châkidor, a Québécois guitar/violin duo featuring **André Varin** and **Valérie Pichon** kicked things off on Sunday evening on the CUPE Main Stage. Virtuoso guitar player Terry Tufts was followed by acoustic blues player Guy Davis. The mood changed to hilarity with the satirical singer-songwriter Nancy White. Ever-popular singer-songwriter Garnet Rogers performed the next set to the great pleasure of the assembled audience.

Following the intermission, rocky folk artist **Melissa Ferrick** performed. After the presentation of the **Helen Verger Award** to the legendary **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, the veteran singer-songwriter performed an amazing set in a rare Ottawa performance. Backed by an accomplished full band, she performed protest and love songs that she had written and released throughout her long and prestigious career as well as more recent material. The audience responded very warmly to her evocative performance that included insightful commentary and renditions of favourites including “Universal Soldier”, “Up Where We Belong”, “Until It’s Time for You to Go”, and “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee”. The **Bill Hilly Band**’s lively bluegrass-inspired set was followed by a set from guitarist **James Cohen**, concluding what was perhaps the most eclectic CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival to date!

Year 10 (2003)

Ten Years of Uninterrupted Folk Festivals

Photos

The little festival that could! From its humble beginnings as a one-day event in 1994, the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival has developed into one of the best folk festivals in Canada. In 2003, we celebrated the sheer joy of showcasing Canadian culture through music, dance, storytelling and crafts for the 10th consecutive year.

Max Wallace, then station manager of community radio station CKCU-FM, discussed the idea of a folk festival on the CBC Radio show “All in a Day”. Wallace was soon contacted by **Chris White**, an Ottawa performer who headed the local songwriting collective, **Writer’s Bloc**. They met to discuss the idea and on a September evening in 1993 at Carleton University’s Mike’s Place, the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival was born.

The steering committee met regularly for a year to organize the first festival. The committee included **Gene Swimmer**, **Chris White**, **Max Wallace**, **Pam Marjerrison**, **Sheila Ross**, **Barry Pilon**, **Roberta Huebener**, **Chris Brown**, **Suzanne Lauzon** and **Joyce MacPhee**. Local businesses such as the **Ottawa Folklore Centre**, offered financial sponsorship, while individuals such as **Chopper McKinnon**, host of the CKCU folk radio show “Canadian Spaces”, and **Dean Verger**, owner of **Rasputin’s Folk Café**, offered valuable advice and support. **Karen Flanagan McCarthy**, the arts reporter on the CBC Radio show “All in a Day” agreed to co-host with Chopper and they have become regular hosts on the evening main stage.

The festival was launched on August 28, 1994, with a full day of entertainment on Victoria Island. The five afternoon stages featured Ottawa Valley fiddling and stepdancing, world music, a tribute to Stan Rogers and a ceilidh. The main stage performers included **Valdy**, **David Wiffen**, **Ian Tamblyn**, **Lynn Miles** and **Dario Domingues**. In comparison, the 2003 festival featured eight daytime stages and, for the first time, a fourth evening of entertainment.

Gene Swimmer, who took over as Festival Director in 1996, remembers his dismay when the first day of the festival began with pouring rain. “It rained all morning,” he recalled. “But by noon, the sun came out and we had a very good turnout.”

In its second year, the festival moved to **Britannia Park**, known for its scenic location on the Ottawa River, as well as for gorgeous sunsets. Then in 1996, the festival ran into its first major challenge. In the fall, CKCU was forced to withdraw its organizational support, putting the 1997 festival in serious jeopardy. The crisis was averted when **Arlo Guthrie** performed two sold-out benefit concerts at the National Library Auditorium in December. A group of volunteers led by **Carol Silcoff** raised additional funds by organizing a silent auction in conjunction with the concerts.

Volunteers continue to play a vital role in the festival's continued success. Each year as the festival approaches, the core team of approximately 20 grows to more than 400 volunteers who work hard to make the event run smoothly. Some of the volunteers plan their vacation time around the festival, and there are a number of families who have been volunteering since the first year.

Part of the success of the festival lies in the positive media coverage it has received over the years. Allan Wigney, an entertainment writer with *XPress*, wrote that the festival had grown to be "one of the premier North American events of its kind." **Lynn Saxberg**, an entertainment writer with *The Ottawa Citizen*, has covered the folk festival for most of the 10 years. In her opinion, "...the folk festival has developed its own unique vibe. It's not the biggest festival in town, but it's the nicest."

Chris White echoes this sentiment. "It's the whole environment of what happens down there, not just because of the (musical) lineup but because of the atmosphere," says White. "It's an experience that has value beyond simply going to a concert."

Arthur McGregor opens each festival by performing his trademark acoustic guitar version of "O Canada". He was not the only first-year performer who returned in year 10. **Lynn Miles, Ian Tamblyn, Terry Tufts, Finest Kind** and **Tony Turner** were among the many 1994 performers who returned in 2003. Our wonderful emcees, **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy**, who have contributed enormously to the success of the festival since day one, made their usual spirited contributions to the festival. They were joined in their emcee duties by **Michel Dozois**, producer of the National Arts Centre's Fourth Stage, and **Rachel Hauraney**, a professional writer and radio host who has been a festival volunteer since 1994. Rachel's parents, **Phil and Cari Hauraney**, are among the scores of volunteers who returned for a 10th year to help the festival run smoothly.

Thursday, August 21

The first-ever Thursday evening concert at the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival opened with Arthur McGregor's rendition of "O Canada". Ottawa **Mayor Bob Chiarelli** welcomed the crowd. **Shauntay Grant**, a young performance poet from Halifax, delivered her spoken-word compositions to an appreciative crowd. **Jesse Zubot** and **Steve Dawson**, two brilliant Vancouver performers, demonstrated why they are rising stars of the folk and roots music scene. Their high-energy acoustic music is infused with elements of jazz, bluegrass, world music and folk.

Following the intermission, Prince Edward Island fiddler and stepdancer **Richard Wood** entertained with his instrumental virtuosity and stunning showmanship. **Dar Williams** received a warm welcome. Her evocative voice and beautifully crafted songs captivated the audience. The evening ended on a high note with the young Calgarian twins **Tegan and Sara**, whose performance showed a punkier, poppier edge to their acoustic sound. The twins were given a loud and enthusiastic reception, especially from the young fans who turned out for their show.

Friday, August 22

The evening entertainment on the CUPE Main Stage began with **Leela Gilday**, a singer from Yellowknife whose classically trained voice touches audiences on spiritual and emotional levels.

Leela was followed by the traditional Québécois band **Le Vent du Nord**, whose members sing and play instruments such as the hurdy gurdy, piano, violin, guitar and accordion. Many festival goers were familiar with stepdancer/accordionist **Benoit Bourque**, who had previously performed at the festival with the band Matapat. Juno Award-winner **David Francey** charmed one and all with his poignant and moving story songs. The singer-songwriter accompanied himself on guitar and was joined by guitarist **Dave Clarke** and multi-instrumentalist **Geoff Somers**. The mood next shifted to the infectious world-beat rhythms of the **The Mighty Popo**, who appeared with his seven-piece band. Influenced by the music of his native Burundi, the guitarist and singer combined blues, reggae and African styles in his set.

Two celebrated female performers, one Canadian and one American, followed the intermission. **Lynn Miles** entertained her loyal following with melancholy songs of love and longing. The singer-songwriter demonstrated her enormous talents, which won her a well-deserved Juno Award earlier in the year.

Emmylou Harris is an icon of contemporary American roots music. She was greeted with great warmth by the crowd, many of whom were hearing the veteran songstress in concert for the first time. Emmylou's elegant set blended elements of country, folk, bluegrass and pop, and was punctuated by her commentary delivered in a charming Southern accent. The audience witnessed an outstanding performance by the queen of alternative country music.

After Hours Music at the Travelodge included performances from **Alise Marlane, Angie Nussey and Harmony Trowbridge, Steel Rail, The Toasted Westerns, Kim Barlow and The Laws**.

Saturday, August 23

The daytime sessions took place on eight stages starting at 11:00 a.m. Another popular festival feature was the **Craft Village** featuring 23 artisans.

The **CUPE Main Stage** kicked off with **Here's to Rasputin's**, a session hosted by Rasputin's owner **Dean Verger**. Performers **Ian Tamblyn, Lynn Miles and Terry Tufts** have appeared frequently at the legendary folk café. **Emmylou and Friends**, hosted by **Rich Warren**, featured **Emmylou Harris, Jane Siberry and The Laws**. **Michel Dozois** hosted **Québecexplosion**, showcasing the talents of **Le Vent du Nord, Éric Beaudry, André Brunet, Sandy Silva and Pierre Belisle**. The tribute to **Canadian Spaces** session was led by **Chopper McKinnon**, host of the longest-running folk radio show in Canada. Artists who have appeared on the show, including **Aengus Finnan, David Francey, Jane Siberry and Steel Rail**, were on hand to help Chopper and the Space Cadets in the audience celebrate.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** debuted with **Fiddle Plus**, hosted by **Nathan Curry**, a veteran Celtic musician who was joined by **André Brunet, Gordon Stobbe, Olivier Demers and Soози Schlanger**. **Arthur McGregor**, owner of the Ottawa Folklore Centre, hosted a folky singalong named after the songbook, *Rise Up Singing*. Exotic rhythms and expressive dance next took centre stage with a **Learn to Bellydance** workshop. The **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir** had a rehearsal before piano wizard **Peter Kiesewalter** hosted **Keyboard Basics**. The day's activities ended on a gentle note with **Kindermusic** led by **Barb Smith**.

The **CKCU-FM Family Area**, located in the main field, was a busy, fun place for kids of all ages. The crafts, games and storytelling began at 11:00 a.m. and went on until late afternoon. Mini-workshops that allowed family members to create their own masterpieces were hosted by **Glass Works, Filament and Solar Woodcuts**.

On the **Bowie Electrical Stage**, the **Taking Turns** sessions allowed different pairs of performers to strut their stuff. **Mike Plume, Alise Marlane and Leela Gilday, Alicide and Christine Fellows** entertained throughout the afternoon. **Raven Kanatakta**, an eclectic young singer-songwriter from Northern Quebec whose influences include his native Algonquin heritage as well as jazz, blues and folk traditions, and **ShoShona Kish**, a singer-songwriter, spoken word artist and dancer originally from Toronto, performed solo sets. **Kim Barlow**, a Whitehorse-based artist who plays guitar, banjo and cello, appeared with her trio. The New Brunswick duo **Isaac and Blewett** closed the day's entertainment with music that featured **Tim Isaac** on cello and **Jim Blewett** on guitar.

The **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage** in the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre kicked off with **Galitcha and Friends** featuring **Benoit Bourque, Kathy Armstrong** and the **Kim Barlow Band**. **Planet Drum** was a rhythmic event hosted by **Kathy Armstrong** showcasing the percussive talents of **Kebba Jobateh, Pepe Danza** and **Wayn Hamilton**. The **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert 1**, hosted by **The Celtic Rathskallions** presented the hilarious **Trout Fishing in America**. **JouTou** hosted **Around the World in 60 Minutes**, a workshop with an eclectic lineup of **Dean Verger, Galitcha** and **Tracey "Halyma" Vibert**. **Dance with Popo** challenged anyone within hearing distance to stay still during a set from the irrepressible bluesman **The Mighty Popo**.

Entertainment on the **Nutshell Music Stage** opened with **Out of Left Field** with **Ann Downey** (host), **Angie Nussey** and **Bob Snider**. **Guitar Delights** featured an impressive trio of guitar heroes including host **David Woodhead, Dave Clarke** and **Roddy Ellias**. **Leela Gilday** hosted **Northern Exposure**, a session with a roundup of northern artists that included **Kim Barlow**. **All the News That's Fit to Sing (Phil Ochs' Tribute)** was the intriguing title of a session that explored the music of the late great American folksinger. Phil's sister **Sonny Ochs** hosted the session with **Arthur McGregor** and **Maria Dunn** paying homage to **Phil Ochs**. **Ron Moores**, host of CKCU's traditional country radio show "The Back 40", led a session of the same name featuring **Keith Glass, Steel Rail** and **The Laws**.

On the **Rogers Stage**, **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** hosted the **Gardening Show** with gardening expert **Ed Lawrence** and the poetry and music of **Susan McMaster & Geode**. **Gord Peeling**, host of the CKCU Celtic music show "Music from the Glen", led a session of the same name with **Bobby Watt, Finest Kind, Linda Miller & Nathan Curry, Nicolas Boulерice & Bernard Simard**. **Carolyn Sutherland** hosted **Heart Strings**, an evocative session with string-y professionals **Buddy Miller, Lynn Miles, Mike Plume** and **Wendell Ferguson**. **Atlantic Scene Revisited**, hosted by **Heather Moore**, featured **Gordon Stobbe, Harry Martin, Isaac and Blewett** and **Shauntay Grant**. **Shelley Posen** hosted the **Funny, Eh?** session with punsters **Bob Snider** and **Trout Fishing in America**.

The **algorithms inc. Stage** rolled out with **The Edge of Folk** featuring **Shauntay Grant** (host), **Alicide** and **Harmony Trowbridge**. The latter performer hosted **Generation F**, featuring young performers **Amanda Rheame** and **Stephanie Clement**. **Morna Ballantyne** hosted **Working Folk**, a session featuring songs about work performed by **David Francey**, **Ian Robb** and **Maria Dunn**. **Words Plus Music** showcased spoken word and musical accompaniment from host **Sheila M Ross & Scot P Dunlop** as well as **David Woodhead**, **Sandra Nicholls & Roddy Ellias**. The day wound down with a **Gordon Lightfoot Tribute**. The tribute, hosted by **Aengus Finnan**, featured **Ian Tamblyn**, **Alise Marlane** and **Terry Tufts**, who shared their favourite memories and tunes of one of Canada's most beloved folksingers.

The Saturday evening entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** began with the rollicking supergroup **Betty and the Bobs**. The band had the audience grooving and swaying with their smorgasbord of country, jazz, blues and R&B. The energy level remained high with talents from far away: the Australian band **Fruit**, and the British-born singer-songwriter **Zoë Lewis**, who was accompanied by **Roxanne Layton**. Audience favourite **Ian Tamblyn** next entertained with some of the classic Canadian folk songs he has written, including "Woodsmoke and Oranges". Between numbers, Ian reminisced about his performance at the first festival.

Following the intermission, festival favourites **The Arrogant Worms** delivered their own wacky take on Canadian life and culture. Audience participation was encouraged! The **Helen Verger Award** was presented to **Jane Siberry** before she performed a mesmerizing, moving set. The main stage performances ended with **La Bottine Souriante**, an exuberant nine-member group that performed numbers ranging from traditional Québécois tunes to jazzy originals.

The festival goers who weren't ready to sleep yet on this particular Saturday night went to the **After Hours Music at the Travelodge** to groove with **Bob Snider**, **Betty and the Bobs**, **The Arrogant Worms**, **Aengus Finnan** and **Isaac and Blewett**.

Sunday, August 24

On the **CUPE Main Stage**, the day opened with **Tony Turner** hosting **This Land of Ours**, a session celebrating songs about Canada and featuring singer-songwriters **Keith Glass** and **The Laws**. **Bill Stunt**, host of the CBC Radio show "Bandwidth", hosted **Bandwidth Live 1**, a session showcasing the talents of **Ron Sexsmith**, **Sarah Harmer** and **Ray Montford**. **Simply the Song** featured veteran songwriters **Buddy Mondlock**, **Ian Tamblyn** and **Jane Siberry**, and was hosted by **Mike Regenstreif**, host of the Montreal radio show "Folk Roots/Folk Branches". Two supergroups, **Betty and the Bobs** and **VSH**, as well as **Bob Snider** appeared in the session **CBC Bandwidth Live 2**, hosted by CKCU station manager and CBC arts journalist **Matthew Crosier**.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** entertainment began and ended with the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir** rehearsing with choir director **Mike MacDonald**. The **All in the Family** session was hosted by **Searson**, a talented Ottawa Valley family quintet specializing in traditional music, and featured **Ivonne & Kalissa Hernandez**. **Roxanne Layton** led the **Learn to Play the Recorder** session. Livewire **Zoë Lewis** presented **There's Music in Everything (for kids)**. Banjo player **Mary Gick**, a lover of traditional American styles, hosted the **Old-Time**

Music session with other trad fans including **Ann Downey, Gordon Stobbe** and **James Stephens**.

The **CKCU-FM Family Area** provided ongoing crafts, games and storytelling. Three nifty **Crafts for Kids** sessions were hosted by **Kinsella Crafts, Glass Works by Burkes,** and **White Trash Ink**. Costumes and musical instruments were optional, but fun was mandatory in the **Sunshine Parade**, which wound its way from the Family Area to the **CUPE Main Stage** and back. **Kathy Armstrong** led kids of all ages in a joyful and noisy parade.

The **Bowie Electrical Stage** opened with the traditional sounds of **Red Wood Central**, otherwise known as **Michelle “Red” April** and **Al Wood**. Three **Taking Turns** workshops featured solo sets by **Bobby Watt** and **Bob Snider, Tony Turner** and **Suzie Vinnick**, and **Amanda Rheaume** and **Angie Nussey**. The whimsical **Magoo** was followed by **Searson**.

The **Kershmann-Wasserlauf Stage** in the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre was the setting for sessions featuring an array of traditional music. The old-fashioned fun kicked off with **Linda Miller** and **Nathan Curry** (host) and **Magoo**. The **Contra Dance for Everyone** session was led by **The Old Sod Band** with caller **Catherine Burns** and encouraged audience participation in a traditional folk dance. In a different flavour, the **Cajun Dance Party** featured **Poutine Étouffée**. **One Instrument, Many Cultures** was a session featuring guitarists **Juancho Herrera** (host), **André Thibault, Nathan Curry** and **Ray Montford**. The **Mother Earth** session featured the band **Fruit** (host), **Shauntay Grant** and **Wolf Moon** (**Sheila M Ross** and **Scot P Dunlop**).

The **Nutshell Music Stage** opened with **Strings Unlimited** featuring **Ray Montford** (host), **Isaac and Blewett** and **Qiu Xia He**. Things turned comical with **A Laugh and a Half**, a session hosted by **The Arrogant Worms** and featuring **Magoo** and **Zoë Lewis**. World music was the focus of **Music of the Diaspora** with **Kleztory** (host), **Juancho Herrera & Michal Cohen**. **Paul Symes**, owner of **The Black Sheep Inn**, hosted a session with performers who had played at the popular Wakefield, Quebec club including **Alise Marlane, Mike Plume, Ron Sexsmith** and **Stephanie Clement**. The day wound down on a spicy note with **Cajun Bagels** showcasing the talents of **Poutine Étouffée** (host) and **Kleztory**.

The entertainment on the **Rogers Stage** began with the session **Voices in Harmony** with **Finest Kind** (host), **Fruit** (trio) and **VSH**. **A Mighty Wind Instrument** was hosted by **The Celtic Rathskallions** and showcasing **Mel Watson** and **Peter Kiese-walter**. There was definitely something fishy going on during the **Fishing with Worms** session that brilliantly paired funsters **Trout Fishing in America** (host) with **The Arrogant Worms**. The mood shifted from the ridiculous to the sublime with the session **Sources of Inspiration** with **Alicide** and **Christine Fellows**. CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival Director **Gene Swimmer** hosted the final session of the afternoon with the **Director’s Choice** session featuring **Buddy Mondlock** and **Zoë Lewis & Roxanne Layton**.

Christine Fellows and **Maria Dunn** were the first entertainers on the **algorithms inc. Stage** with the **Prairie Sirens** session. The **Adventures in Music** session hosted by **Amanda Rheaume** featured **Maria Dunn** and **Raven Kanatakta & ShoShona Kish**. Rocker **Mike Plume** hosted the

Lost and Profound session with **Christine Fellows, Elana Harte** and **Kim Sheppard**. The adventure continued with the **Acoustic Blues** session hosted by **Isaac and Blewett** and featuring **Raven Kanatakta** and **Red Wood Central**. The entertainment wound down with **The Travelling Musician** session showcasing **Aengus Finnan** (host), and **Juancho Herrera & Michal Cohen**.

The final evening performances on the **CUPE Main Stage** began with the wonderful three-part harmonies of **VSH (Suzie Vinnick, Kim Sheppard and Elana Harte)**, whose group members are also solo performers in their own right. **JouTou** gets its name from the French phrase meaning “play everything”. And they do! Their exciting blend of influences includes Chinese, South American, Irish and Québécois cultures. American singer-songwriter **Buddy Mondlock** and the American folk festival favourites **Trout Fishing in America**, delivered sets before the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir** performed, led by **Mike MacDonald**. A highlight of their music was the Stan Rogers classic “Bluenose”.

After the intermission, the trio **Finest Kind** gave a rousing performance of their traditional material. **Ron Sexsmith**, the wildly popular singer-songwriter from Toronto who is gaining national acclaim, delivered an evocative set. Rising star **Sarah Harmer** was received warmly by the audience throughout her spirited performance.

Near the end of the evening, many of the Festival organizers joined the **Terry Penner Memorial Festival Choir** onstage to sing “Happy Birthday”. The audience joined in and so ended the 10th annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival.

Year 11 (2004)

Most Diverse Lineup Yet at 11th Annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival

Photos

The roster of the 11th annual CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival was studded with superstars of three generations, including **Michael Franti**, **Arlo Guthrie**, **Judy Collins** and **Jackie Washington**, the recipient of the 2004 **Helen Verger Award**. These talented and accomplished performers exemplified the diversity of this year's festival lineup. Festival goers had an opportunity to applaud artists from across Canada and the United States, and to celebrate the richness of folk music, which today sits at the crossroads of numerous cultural influences.

Anticipation for the festival was high. "With reggae activists Spearhead, the indie-rock collective Broken Social Scene and 1960s pioneers Judy Collins and Arlo Guthrie booked as headliners, the CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival unveiled the coolest, most eclectic lineup of its decade-long existence," said Lynn Saxberg in *The Ottawa Citizen*. "We felt we had to go for the best talent we possibly could," said Festival Director Gene Swimmer, "and when these people were available, we just went for it."

Two new festival awards were presented during the weekend. On Friday evening, **Joe Grass** received the **Galaxie Rising Stars Award** from **Roch Parisien**, programmer and producer of the **Folk Roots** channel on the **Galaxie** network of the CBC. **Lis Harvey** and **Dave Carmichael** were awarded the **One Fret Less Award** on Saturday evening. This award was made possible by a **Community Foundation of Ottawa** endowment established by **Harvey and Louise Glatt**, long-time supporters of folk music and singer-songwriters.

Thursday, August 26

Arthur McGregor, who opens each festival with an acoustic guitar version of "O Canada", delivered a well-executed rendition of our national anthem. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival. **Frida's Brow**, a group named after Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, consists of **Chris MacLean**, **Alise Marlane** and **Jennifer Noxon**. The trio charmed the audience with gorgeous harmonies and songs reflecting a range of musical influences. **Gérald Laroche** entertained one and all with unique storytelling, accompanying himself on a variety of harmonicas and percussive instruments. Senegalese brothers **Karim** and **El Hadji Diouf** fronted the energetic band **Diouf**, an ensemble that combined vocal harmonies, percussion, guitars and drums, and performed a mix of traditional and contemporary tunes. Next up was singer-songwriter **Ember Swift**, who with co-creator **Lyndell Montgomery**, on violin, bass and bowed guitar, delivered politically charged folk-jazz-funk music. **Broken Social Scene**, the ultra-hip dynamic collective of Toronto's vibrant experimental music scene, closed the evening with a series of eclectic jams. The music proved infectious for many in the first-night crowd, who jumped to their feet and danced long into the warm summer night.

Friday, August 27

Friday night opened on a dramatic note with **Eagle & Hawk**, a group that combined hard-driving rock with traditional Aboriginal vocals and rhythms. The audience soon warmed up to the Juno Award-winning group, which incorporated Native dance and costumes in its performance.

American singer-songwriter **Rachael Davis** contributed an eclectic set that illustrated influences ranging from jazz to folk to pop. She was followed by Winnipeg native **Joel Kroeker**, whose set featured alternative folk, rock and jazz.

The excitement was palpable when fiddler **Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul** opened with a dynamic set of traditional Irish music interlaced with African, Latin and American roots rhythms. Eileen Ivers amply demonstrated the talent that stood her in good stead when she starred in *Riverdance*. It was almost impossible not to dance!

The high energy and dancing continued with **Michael Franti & Spearhead**, the phenomenally popular group that dazzled the crowd with hip-hop roots fusion music championing peace and social justice. After putting in an intense and highly danceable performance that particularly appealed to the young members of the audience, the charismatic Franti was not ready to go home. He generously signed autographs for nearly an hour after his performance, and offered kind words and hugs to his many fans.

Saturday, August 28

Saturday Daytime Sessions

The entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** opened at 11:00 a.m. with the well-attended **Canadian Spaces Live** session hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**. This popular session featured two singer-songwriters of East Coast extraction: **Joe Grass** and **Gordie Sampson**, humorist **Nancy White**, and newcomer **Liam Titcomb**. Another live CKCU show followed with the **Back 40 Live** session hosted by **Ron Moores**. It featured **Corb Lund**, **Rachael Davis**, **Rae Spoon** and **Michael Jerome Browne**.

The excitement mounted for fans of both veteran singer **Judy Collins** and Canadian icon **Leonard Cohen** with the **Collins Sings Cohen** session. Collins performed selections from her just-released album *Judy Collins Sings Leonard Cohen: Democracy*. The performance was enriched by her many anecdotes about their long friendship. Collins related how she met Cohen in the mid-sixties when he was a fledgling songwriter. She helped to launch his career by recording his songs, most notably “Suzanne”, which was a major hit. The afternoon continued with **NAC Alberta Scene Preview** hosted by **Heather Moore** and featuring **Corb Lund**, **Lindsay Jane**, **Rae Spoon** and **The McDades**. The entertainment wound down as it had begun, with a CKCU host. **Laurie-Ann Cople** hosted the **Musical Connections** session featuring **Eve Goldberg**, **Wendell Ferguson** and **Sandy Scofield**.

Taking Turns was the first session on the **Bowie Electrical Stage** and showcased the music of **Dave Carmichael** and **Mark Reeves**. **Changing the World with a Song** featured the Ottawa-based choir **Just Voices** led by Greg Furlong. **Lonesome Paul** was featured in the **Welcome Back!** session. Three successive **Taking Turns** sessions allowed the crowd to sample the talents

of Art Turner, Shane Simpson & Paul Bourdeau; The Vanity Press and Ana Miura; and Joe Grass and Kate Weekes.

At the **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage**, a lively **Dance** session showcased the music of **Eagle & Hawk**. The ever-popular **Connie Kaldor** was featured in the first **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert** and performed songs from her hit children's album, *A Duck in New York City*. CKCU alumnus **Roch Parisien** hosted **Galaxie Rising Stars**, sponsored by the CBC digital music network **Galaxie**. Featured artists were **Joe Grass**, **The Vanity Press**, **Ana Miura** and **Ryan Schneider**. **Sonny Ochs**, the sister of the late American folksinger **Phil Ochs**, hosted the **American Women** session with **Zoë Lewis**, **Lis Harvey** and **Natalia Zukerman**. Another **Dance** session featuring **Corb Lund** and his band ended the afternoon performances.

The fun on the **CKCU-FM Family Stage** began with **Music Together** led by **Liz Benjamin**. Ottawa songwriter **Russell Levia** appeared next, followed by the **Stories for Everyone** session hosted by master storyteller **Gérald Laroche**. **Barb Smith** and **Chris Moore** hosted the participative **Kindermusik** session. The Celtic-influenced band **The Gruff** appeared to the delight of the assembled children of all ages. The breezily named session **World Winds** hosted by **Ron Korb** featured **Bruce Fontaine** of **Eagle & Hawk** along with **Duncan Cameron** and **Joe Phillips** of the **Pierre Schryer Band**.

On the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage**, **Arthur McGregor** hosted **Rise Up Singing**, a session titled after the songbook of the same name. The **Terry Penner Memorial Choir**, directed by **Michael MacDonald**, had its first rehearsal. Instructional workshops included **All About Flutes** with **Ron Korb**, and **Learn How to Play the Tin Whistle** with **Anj Daub** and **Jeremiah McDade**. Other "how-to" sessions included **How to Write a Song** hosted by **Connie Kaldor** with **Gordie Sampson**, **Shelley Posen** and **Mike McCormick**, and **How to Play Music Together** with **The McDades**. The day ended with a half-hour session of a spiritual nature: **Getting Started with Taoist Tai Chi**.

First up on the **Nutshell Music Stage** was **Joel Kroeker**, who hosted the **Self Expression** session including **Ryan Schneider** and **Art Turner**. The lively **Pierre Schryer Band** performed next. **Down East Pudding** was hosted by **Cam Wells** and featured **Dave Carmichael**, **Gordie Sampson** and **Nancy White**. **Morna Ballantyne** hosted **Songs of Struggle and Hope**, which showcased the considerable talents of **Eve Goldberg**, **Vince Fontaine** of **Eagle & Hawk**, **Ember Swift** and **Just Voices**. The jovial **Laugh It Up** session featured host **Nancy White**, **Connie Kaldor**, **Washboard Hank**, and **Jay Bodner** and **Spatch Mulhull** of **Eagle & Hawk**.

The wonderful Indian-influenced music of **Galitcha** was the first offering on the eclectic **Rogers Stage**. **Dean Verger**, owner of **Rasputin's Folk Café**, hosted **Rasputin's Presents** with **Frida's Brow**, **The Vanity Press** and **Ember Swift**. The **Black Sheep Live** session featured musicians who had appeared at the Wakefield, Quebec folk club and included **Rae Spoon**, **Rachael Davis**, **Joel Kroeker** and **Lindsay Jane**. The **Pierre Schryer Band** and **The Old Sod Band** performed in the **Celtic Crossroads** session. Festival Director **Gene Swimmer** hosted the **Director's Choice** session with **Joel Kroeker**, **Mark Reeves** and **Zoë Lewis**.

Canada's folk, roots and world music magazine, *Penguin Eggs*, sponsored the **Penguin Eggs Stage**. The entertainment began with **From Far and Wide**, featuring host **Sandy Scofield**, **The Gruff** and **Kate Weekes**. The **Silly Songs** session featured funsters **Mike McCormick**, **Eve Goldberg** and **Wendell Ferguson**. The mood turned more serious with the session titled **The Art of Justice** with host **Chris MacLean**, **Oni the Haitian Sensation**, **Sandy Scofield** and **Alise Marlane**. Long-time festival emcee **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** hosted the **Across Cultures** session with **Gérald Laroche** and **Ron Korb**. The day ended with the **Guitars R Us** session showcasing the talents of host **Shane Simpson**, **Paul Bourdeau**, **Kristin Sweetland** and **Ray Hickey Jr.** of the **Ron Korb Band**.

The **CUPE EnviroTent**, sponsored by the **Canadian Union of Public Employees**, featured ongoing displays, discussions and hands-on activities related to environmental issues and responsible living. Sessions included **Organic Food and You** with **Laura Telford** of **Canadian Organic Growers**; **Vermicomposting** with **Lori Watt** of **The Worm Factory**; **An Environmental Festival** with **Kathryn Briggs (EcoRail Tour)**; **The Fair Trade Movement** with **Chantal Havard** of **TransFair**; and **Alternative Energy Sources** with author **Bill Kemp**.

Saturday Evening CUPE Main Stage

The Saturday evening entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** opened with Vancouver-based singer-songwriter **Sandy Scofield**, whose compelling material reflected her Métis roots. **The McDades** delivered a set of rootsy music that blended Celtic, world and jazz influences. The band includes fiddler, singer and producer **Shannon Johnson** and her brothers **Jeremiah** and **Solon McDade**. Albertan roots-country cowboys, the **Corb Lund Band**, performed a lively set that set toes a tappin' in the audience.

Arlo Guthrie and **Judy Collins** were contemporaries on the American folk scene in the sixties and onward. The capacity crowd at Britannia Park was thrilled to witness back-to-back performances from these legendary silver-haired performers. **Arlo Guthrie** is an old friend of the Ottawa Folk Festival. His performances in two benefit concerts in 1996 made it possible for the festival to survive a difficult period. Arlo charmed the audience with amusing anecdotes and performed hits such as "City of New Orleans" and "Coming Into Los Angeles" as well as some Woody Guthrie songs. **Judy Collins'** performance was nothing less than extraordinary. Her pure, beautiful voice proved as lovely as ever as she performed a variety of material from her long career. Collins also touched on her connection with Canadians Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. The evening ended with Dominican Republic artist **Joaquin Diaz**, who performed contemporary and traditional merengue tunes filled with syncopated accordion rhythms.

Other Saturday evening venues included the **Alt-Folk Café**, located onsite at the **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage**, and off-site at the **Travelodge Hotel Ottawa West** located on Carling Avenue. The **Alt-Folk Café** was hosted by **Ember Swift** and included sets with **Spiral Beach**, **Joe Grass**, **Liam Titcomb**, **Lindsay Jane**, **Kate Weekes** and **Rae Spoon**. **After-Hours at the Travelodge** featured **Pierre Schryer**; **Scarlett**, **Washington** and **Whiteley**; **Natalia Zukerman**; **Zoë Lewis**, and **Mark Reeves and Friends** in the **Beachcomber Room**. **Galitcha** hosted a jam session in the **Acoustic Room**.

Sunday, August 29

Sunday Daytime Sessions

On the **CUPE Main Stage**, the morning opened with the **New Voices** session with host **Sam Baijal**, **Natalia Zukerman**, **Rachael Davis**, **Mark Reeves** and **Darryn Grandbois**. The soulful session **Blues Without Borders** was hosted by eclectic guitarist **Harry Manx**, and featured **Jackie Washington**, **Ken Whiteley**, **Michael Jerome Browne**, **Solon McDade**, **Gérald Laroche** and **Joe Grass**. **CBC Bandwidth Live** was a live version of the **CBC Radio** show focusing on Ontario performers, and was hosted by **Bill Stunt**. The diverse lineup included **Oni the Haitian Sensation**, **Jane Bunnett**, **Eve Goldberg** and **Kristin Sweetland**. DJ **Mike Regenstreif** hosted the **Folk Roots/Folk Branches** session with **Jane Bunnett**, **Harry Manx**, **Rachael Davis** and **Jay Bodner** of **Eagle & Hawk**. The **Fiddle Focus** session with host **Pierre Schreyer** featured **Valérie Pichon** and **André Varin** of **Châkidor**, **Samantha Robichaud**, and **Shannon Johnson** of **The McDades**.

The entertainment on the **Bowie Electrical Stage** opened with three **Taking Turns** sessions. First up were **The Gruff**, and **Ball and Chain** followed by **Kristin Sweetland** and **Lis Harvey**, and **Lindsay Jane** and **Ryan Schneider**. Other sessions showcased the talents of **Rae Spoon**, **Michael Jerome Browne** and **The Twin Rivers String Band**, **The Gruff** and **Junkyard Symphony**.

A **Tribute to the Past** was the first session on the **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage**. Host **Eve Goldberg** performed and introduced **Mose Scarlett**, **Michael Jerome Browne**, and folklorist-musician **Shelley Posen**. The second **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert** called **Music in Everything**, highlighted the music of host **Zoë Lewis**, and a presentation of **Junkyard Symphony's Garbage and Guitars**. Audience participation was highly encouraged at three **Dance** sessions led by **Sandy Scofield**, **Joaquin Diaz** and **Ball and Chain**.

The **CKCU-FM Family Stage** performances began with the **Music Together** session led by **Liz Benjamin**. **Hoops and Flutes** was a session with **Bruce Fontaine** of **Eagle & Hawk**. **Kate Weekes** performed in the **Songs I Like** session. **Splash'N Boots** performed two interactive sets. The **Kindermusik** session was led by **Barb Smith** and **Chris Moore**. The **Celtic Rathskallions with Wendy Moore-McGregor** performed an enjoyable and lively set. Kids of all ages were invited to participate in the **Sunshine Parade**, which involved marching and dancing with musical instruments. The happy and noisy celebration wound its way to the main stage, gaining participants en route.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** opened and closed the day with rehearsals of the **Terry Penner Memorial Choir** directed by **Michael MacDonald**. **How to Sing in Harmony** featured the talented musicians of **Frida's Brow** along with **Ball and Chain**. **Miles Howe** and **Roxanne Layton** hosted sessions teaching participants how to play the harmonica and recorder respectively. **Rev. Ernie Cox** led the session titled **About Gospel Music**. More harmonica tips were provided in the session **Advanced Harmonica Techniques** hosted by **Gérald Laroche**.

Sources of Inspiration was the first session of the day on the **Nutshell Music Stage**. It featured host **Kristin Sweetland**, **Wendell Ferguson** and **Lis Harvey**. The **Taking Turns** session

included sets by **Darryn Grandbois**, and **Valérie Pichon** and **André Varin** of **Châkidor**. **The Gruff** and **The McDades** teamed up in the session **Western Celtic**. **Galitcha** led the spirited **Learn East Indian Dancing** session. The day ended on a spiritual note with the **Gospel Unlimited** session showcasing host **Ken Whiteley**, **Connie Kaldor**, **Eve Goldberg**, **Rev. Ernie Cox** and **Mark Reeves**.

On the **Rogers Stage**, festival emcee **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** hosted **The Flower Hour** with celebrity gardener **Ed Lawrence** and humorist **Nancy White**. The laughter continued with **Funny Folk** with host **Morna Ballantyne**, **Arlo Guthrie**, **Nancy White** and **Mike McCormick**. **A Tribute to Leonard Cohen** was hosted by **Nancy White** and featured **Gordie Sampson**, **Connie Kaldor**, **Spiral Beach**, **Jay Bodner** of **Eagle & Hawk**, and **Liam Titcomb** singing their favourite Cohen songs. **An Extraordinary Life (A Musical Conversation with Jackie Washington)** featured veteran performer **Jackie Washington** and was hosted by his good friend **Ken Whiteley**. The day's entertainment closed with the **Window of Opportunity** session with host **Laurie-Ann Copple**, **Natalia Zukerman**, **Lindsay Jane** and **Darryn Grandbois**.

Rise and Shine was the appropriately titled first session on the **Penguin Eggs Stage** and showcased the talents of **Galitcha and Friends**. **Now That's a Stretch – Yoga and Music** was a participatory session pairing gentle yoga movements and music featuring yoga teacher **Jo-Ann Osterman** and musician **Ron Korb**. **Shelley Posen**, who leads a shape-note singing group in Ottawa, hosted the participatory session **Shape Note Singing for Everyone**. The **Doc's Pick** session was named for the popular segment on the CKCU-FM radio show "Canadian Spaces". The mysterious Doc himself was on hand, as were musical guests **Jennifer Noxon**, **Gordie Sampson** and **Wendell Ferguson**. To wind down the day, the **Taking Turns** session showcased **Zoë Lewis** and **Shelley Posen**.

The **CUPE EnviroTent** featured more displays, discussions and hands-on activities related to environmental issues and responsible living. Sessions included **Sun Power** with **Sean Twomey** of **Arbour Environmental Shoppe**, **Getting Involved** with **Mike Kaulbars** of the **Peace and Environment Resource Centre**, **An Environmental Festival** with **Arthur Goldsmith** of **EcoRail Tour**, **Fair Trade in Action** with **Nicole McGrath** of **Peri Dar**, and **Pesticide Safety** with **Mari Wellman** of **Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa**.

Sunday Evening CUPE Main Stage

The Sunday evening entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** began with the **Terry Penner Memorial Choir** led by director **Michael MacDonald**. The choir consisted of festival-goers who attended three rehearsals during the weekend and performed for an appreciative audience. An exceptionally high-calibre evening exemplified the festival's diverse lineup. The five-piece Quebec band **Châkidor** regaled the audience with a high-energy set that included Irish, bluegrass, Celtic and classical influences. **Connie Kaldor** has appeared at several festivals and as usual she wowed the crowd with a cross-section of her vast repertoire.

Musical treasures **Scarlett**, **Washington** and **Whiteley** performed a set of their warm-hearted and sometimes amusing tunes that blended their talents in the world of folk, blues and swing. **Jackie Washington** was awarded the **Helen Verger Award** for his valuable contributions to

Canadian folk music. Washington, who has an exceptional memory, recalled how he began his musical career as a child growing up in the 1930s in Hamilton, Ontario. His many accomplishments include becoming Canada's first black disc jockey, participating in the 1960s coffee house scene, and composing more than 1200 songs. He has toured and recorded with Scarlett, Washington and Whiteley since the 1980s. The group's first CD, *Where Old Friends Meet*, received a Juno nomination in 1993.

Harry Manx & The Urban Turban delivered an exhilarating performance under the stars. Manx is a master of the slide guitar and mohan veena, an instrument that combines elements of the guitar and sitar. His music meshes blues with India ragas and this unlikely combination of styles is nothing less than magical. Manx was ably accompanied by **The Urban Turban: Niel Golden** on tabla, **Wynn Gogol** on keyboards and backup singer **Emily Braden**.

The festival ended with a powerful performance from one of Canada's top jazz musicians, **Jane Bunnett**, who appeared with her band, **The Spirits of Havana**. Bunnett is a virtuoso on the saxophone and flute and is passionate about Cuban music, which features prominently in her repertoire. The warm summer evening and the ethereal music of Bunnett and her band provided unforgettable memories for the audience. And so ended the most culturally diverse CKCU Ottawa Folk Festival.

Year 12 (2005)

Canadian Talent Shines Brightly at 12th Annual Ottawa Folk Festival

Photos

Canadian talent shone as brightly as the stars over Britannia Bay at the twelfth annual Ottawa Folk Festival. Willie P. Bennett, the Jim Cuddy Band and Natalie McMaster reminded us why our folk tradition is so worthy of our support. Celebrations for the 25th anniversary of *Canadian Spaces*, the longest-running folk radio show in Canada echoed this sentiment. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** returned to host the main stage throughout the festival.

Thursday, August 18

The first evening of the twelfth Ottawa Folk Festival was graced with an inspired set by veteran Canadian performer Willie P. Bennett, who was presented with the Helen Verger Award. Bennett performed with aplomb and kept the audience entranced with a crowd-pleasing cross-section of material from his long musical career that stretched from the mid-70s to the present day. The Willie P. Bennett tribute band Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, who had performed at previous Ottawa Folk Festivals, are a testament to his musical legacy.

Of course Arthur McGregor, owner of the Ottawa Folklore Centre, opened the festival with his customary acoustic guitar rendition of *O Canada*. This gentle opening was followed by Halifax roots rocker Joel Plaskett, whose album Truthfully Truthfully was named best rock recording at the 2005 East Coast Music Awards.

The amazing veteran British performer Joan Armatrading closed the evening with a lively set that had the audience dancing the night away.

Two new festival awards were presented during the weekend. On Friday evening, **Joe Grass** received the **Galaxie Rising Stars Award** from **Roch Parisien**, programmer and producer of the **Folk Roots** channel on the **Galaxie** Network of the CBC. **Lis Harvey** and **Dave Carmichael** were awarded the **One Fret Less Award** on Saturday evening. This award was made possible by a **Community Foundation of Ottawa** endowment established by **Harvey and Louise Glatt**, long-time supporters of folk music and singer-songwriters.

Thursday, August 26

Arthur McGregor, who opens each festival with an acoustic version of “O Canada”, delivered a well-executed rendition of our national anthem. **Frida’s Brow**, a group named after Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, consists of **Chris MacLean**, **Alise Marlane** and **Jennifer Noxon**. The trio charmed the audience with gorgeous harmonies and songs reflecting a range of musical influences. **Gérald Laroche** entertained one and all with unique storytelling, accompanying himself on a variety of harmonicas and percussive instruments. Senegalese brothers **Karim** and **El Hadji Diouf** fronted the energetic band **Diouf**, an ensemble that combined vocal harmonies, percussion, guitars and drums, and performed a mix of traditional and contemporary tunes. Next

up was singer-songwriter **Ember Swift**, who with co-creator **Lyndell Montgomery**, on violin, bass and bowed guitar, delivered politically charged folk-jazz-funk music. **Broken Social Scene**, the ultra-hip dynamic collective of Toronto's vibrant experimental music scene, closed the evening with a series of eclectic jams. The music proved infectious for many in the first-night crowd, who jumped to their feet and danced long into the warm summer night.

Friday, August 27

Friday night opened on a dramatic note with **Eagle & Hawk**, a group that combined hard-driving rock with traditional Aboriginal vocals and rhythms. The audience soon warmed up to the Juno Award-winning group, which incorporated Native dance and costumes in its performance.

American singer-songwriter **Rachael Davis** contributed an eclectic set that illustrated influences ranging from jazz to folk to pop. She was followed by Winnipeg native **Joel Kroeker**, whose set featured alternative folk, rock and jazz.

The excitement was palpable when fiddler **Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul** opened with a dynamic set of traditional Irish music interlaced with African, Latin and American roots rhythms. Eileen Ivers amply demonstrated the talent that stood her in good stead when she starred in *Riverdance*. It was almost impossible not to dance!

The high energy and dancing continued with **Michael Franti & Spearhead**, the phenomenally popular group that dazzled the crowd with hip-hop roots fusion music championing peace and social justice. After putting in an intense and highly danceable performance that particularly appealed to the young members of the audience, the charismatic Franti was not ready to go home. He generously signed autographs for nearly an hour after his performance, and offered kind words and hugs to his many fans.

Saturday, August 28

Saturday Daytime Sessions

The entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** opened at 11:00 a.m. with the well-attended **Canadian Spaces Live** session hosted by **Chopper McKinnon**. This popular session featured two singer-songwriters of East Coast extraction: **Joe Grass** and **Gordie Sampson**, humorist **Nancy White**, and newcomer **Liam Titcomb**. Another live CKCU show followed with the **Back 40 Live** session hosted by **Ron Moores**. It featured **Corb Lund**, **Rachael Davis**, **Rae Spoon** and **Michael Jerome Browne**.

The excitement mounted for fans of both veteran singer **Judy Collins** and Canadian icon **Leonard Cohen** with the **Collins Sings Cohen** session. Collins performed selections from her just-released album *Judy Collins Sings Leonard Cohen: Democracy*. The performance was enriched by her many anecdotes about their long friendship. Collins related how she met Cohen in the mid-sixties when he was a fledgling songwriter. She helped to launch his career by recording his songs, most notably *Suzanne*, which was a major hit. The afternoon continued with **NAC Alberta Scene Preview** hosted by **Heather Moore** and featuring **Corb Lund**, **Lindsay Jane**, **Rae Spoon** and **The McDades**. The entertainment wound down as it had begun, with a CKCU host. **Laurie-Ann Cople** hosted the **Musical Connections** session featuring **Eve Goldberg**, **Wendell Ferguson** and **Sandy Scofield**.

Taking Turns was the first session on the **Bowie Electrical Stage** and showcased the music of **Dave Carmichael** and **Mark Reeves**. **Changing the World with a Song** featured **Just Voices**. **Lonesome Paul** was featured in the **Welcome Back!** session. Three successive **Taking Turns** sessions allowed the crowd to sample the talents of **Art Turner**, **Shane Simpson & Paul Bourdeau**; **The Vanity Press** and **Ana Miura**; and **Joe Grass** and **Kate Weekes**.

At the **Kershman-Wasserlauf Stage**, a lively **Dance** session showcased the music of **Eagle & Hawk**. The ever-popular **Connie Kaldor** was featured in the first **Ottawa Citizen Family Concert** and performed songs from her hit children's album, *A Duck in New York City*. CKCU alumnus **Roch Parisien** hosted **Galaxie Rising Stars**, sponsored by the CBC digital music network **Galaxie**. Featured artists were **Joe Grass**, **The Vanity Press**, **Ana Miura** and **Ryan Schneider**. **Sonny Ochs**, the sister of the late American folksinger **Phil Ochs**, hosted the **American Women** session with **Zoë Lewis**, **Lis Harvey** and **Natalia Zukerman**. Another **Dance** session featuring **Corb Lund** and his band ended the afternoon performances.

The fun on the **CKCU-FM Family Stage** began with **Music Together** led by **Liz Benjamin**. Ottawa songwriter **Russell Levia** appeared next, followed by the **Stories for Everyone** session hosted by master storyteller **Gérald Laroche**. **Barb Smith** and **Chris Moore** hosted the participative **Kindermusik** session. The Celtic-influenced band **Gruff** appeared to the delight of the assembled children of all ages. The breezily named session **World Winds**, hosted by **Ron Korb** featured **Bruce Fontaine** of **Eagle & Hawk**, and **Duncan Cameron** and **Joe Phillips** of the **Pierre Schryer Band**.

On the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage**, **Arthur McGregor** hosted **Rise Up Singing**, a session titled after the songbook of the same name. The **Terry Penner Memorial Choir**, directed by **Michael MacDonald**, had its first rehearsal. Instructional workshops included **All About Flutes** with **Ron Korb**, and **Learn How to Play the Tin Whistle** with **Anj Daub** and **Jeremiah McDade**. Other "how-to" sessions included **How to Write a Song** hosted by **Connie Kaldor** with **Gordie Sampson**, **Shelley Posen** and **Mike McCormick**, and **How to Play Music Together** with **The McDades**. The day ended with a half-hour session of a spiritual nature: **Getting Started with Taoist Tai Chi**.

First up on the **Nutshell Music Stage** was **Joel Kroeker**, who hosted the **Self Expression** session including **Ryan Schneider** and **Art Turner**. The lively **Pierre Schryer Band** performed next. **Down East Pudding** was hosted by **Cam Wells** and featured **Dave Carmichael**, **Gordie Sampson** and **Nancy White**. **Morna Ballantyne** hosted **Songs of Struggle and Hope**, which featured the considerable talents of **Eve Goldberg**, **Vince Fontaine** of **Eagle & Hawk**, **Ember Swift** and **Just Voices**. The jovial **Laugh It Up** session featured host **Nancy White**, **Connie Kaldor**, **Washboard Hank**, and **Jay Bodner** and **Spatch Mulhull** of **Eagle & Hawk**.

The wonderful Indian-influenced music of **Galitcha** was the first offering on the eclectic **Rogers Stage**. **Dean Verger**, owner of **Rasputin's Folk Café**, hosted **Rasputin's Presents** with **Frida's Brow**, **The Vanity Press** and **Ember Swift**. The **Black Sheep Live** session featured musicians who had appeared at the Wakefield, Quebec folk club and included **Rae Spoon**, **Rachael Davis**,

Joel Kroeker and **Lindsay Jane**. The **Pierre Schryer Band** and **The Old Sod Band** performed in the **Celtic Crossroads** session. Festival Director **Gene Swimmer** hosted the **Director's Choice** session with **Joel Kroeker**, **Mark Reeves** and **Zoë Lewis**.

Canada's folk, roots and world music magazine, *Penguin Eggs*, sponsored the **Penguin Eggs Stage**. The entertainment began with **From Far and Wide**, featuring host **Sandy Scofield**, **The Gruff** and **Kate Weekes**. The **Silly Songs** session featured funsters **Mike McCormick**, **Eve Goldberg** and **Wendell Ferguson**. The mood turned more serious with the session titled **The Art of Justice** with host **Chris MacLean**, **Oni the Haitian Sensation**, **Sandy Scofield** and **Alise Marlane**. Long-time festival emcee **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** hosted the **Across Cultures** session with **Gérald Laroche** and **Ron Korb**. The day ended with the **Guitars R Us** session showcasing the talents of host **Shane Simpson**, **Paul Bourdeau**, **Kristin Sweetland** and **Ray Hickey Jr.** of the **Ron Korb Band**.

The **CUPE EnviroTent**, sponsored by the **Canadian Union of Public Employees**, featured ongoing displays, discussions and hands-on activities related to environmental issues and responsible living. Sessions included **Organic Food and You** with **Laura Telford** of **Canadian Organic Growers**; **Vermicomposting** with **Lori Watt** of **The Worm Factory**; **An Environmental Festival** with **Kathryn Briggs (EcoRail Tour)**; **The Fair Trade Movement** with **Chantal Havard** of **TransFair**; and **Alternative Energy Sources** with author **Bill Kemp**.

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Year 13 (2006)

Ottawa Folk Festival Has Something for Everyone!

Photos

The 2006 Ottawa Folk Festival presented an appealing variety of entertainment ranging from American alt-country sensation Steve Earle to singer-songwriter Ferron to the Burundi-inspired The Mighty Popo Band. Blues, Celtic, klezmer and gospel artists and a ukelele virtuoso demonstrated the diversity of folk music. The twenty-fifth anniversary of Rasputin's Folk Café was celebrated in fine style, while former Bronson Avenue neighbour Arthur McGregor of the Ottawa Folklore Centre, received the Helen Verger Award.

This year also marked the departure of Executive Director Gene Swimmer who had made an exceptional contribution to the festival in this role since 1996. Gene was recognized by many people on the main stage and was presented with mementoes for his decade of dedicated volunteer service.

Festival goers had many different ways to participate, whether singing with the Terry Penner Festival Choir, performing at the Ottawa Folklore Centre open mic session, joining in on a singalong, or learning to play the harmonica, ukelele, or pennywhistle. There were also chances to dance to music styles from Cuban to Cajun to klezmer, and to perform with a community drumming circle.

The **CKCU-FM Family Area** was bigger and better than ever and featured two of the best children's acts on the circuit: **Fran Avni** and **Sho Mo and The Monkey Bunch**. As usual, kids could make musical instruments, and participate in crafts workshops. **Kathy Armstrong** organized the **Kids Weekend Drumming Ensemble**, giving kids a chance to learn and rehearse African drumming and perform during the Sunshine Parade held Sunday afternoon.

The **CUPE EnviroTent** offered ongoing talks, demonstrations and hands-on activities for adults and children. Topics included renewable energy, raw vegan foods, attracting butterflies to your backyard, water, patchwork quilting, terminator seeds and rekindling our relationship with Mother Earth.

Thursday, August 17

On Thursday, August 17 two separately ticketed downtown shows launched the thirteenth festival. An all-star song circle of **Lynn Miles, Ian Tamblyn, Bill Bourne** and **Erick Manana** celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of **Rasputin's** at **Library and Archives Canada**. Many wonderful memories and amusing anecdotes were shared at the tribute and owner Dean Verger was in great spirits. A lively show at the **Capital City Music Hall** featured a dynamite quadruple bill of **The Sadies, Ridley Bent, The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir** and **Amy Milan**.

Friday, August 18

Friday afternoon in Britannia Park at the **Metro Ottawa Stage** began rhythmically with a **Community Drumming Circle** with **Kathy Armstrong, Leo Brooks** and **Rusty Eckland**. The evening main stage opened with **Arthur McGregor** performing the Canadian anthem in his inimitable ragtime style on his acoustic guitar. Arthur was followed by the **Kelli Trotter Band**, the wonderfully named ensemble **The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir**, **Erick Manana**, ukelele virtuoso **James Hill**, festival staple **Ian Tamblyn**, and bluesy duo **Dawn Tyler Watson & Paul Deslauriers**. **Steve Earle** received a rousing welcome from the enthusiastic crowd who responded to his extraordinary and deeply personal brand of country music.

Alternative evening programming took place in the **World Harmony Stage** inside the **Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre**. A song circle was held with **Mark Wilson, Old Man Luedecke** (a surprisingly young banjo songster), **Zach Stevenson** (well known for his interpretations of Phil Ochs material), **Rachelle van Zanten** and **Amy Millan**. At an **After Party** held at the **Travelodge Hotel Ottawa West**, the entertainment included **Jan Purcell and Pine Road, Erynn Marshall & Chris Coole** and **Robert Michaels**.

Saturday, August 19

On the **CUPE Main Stage**, the day opened with a **Family Concert** with **Sho Mo and the Monkey Bunch**. **Mike Regenstreif** hosted the **Fiddle Frenzy** session with **Dirk Powell**, the **April Verch Band**, **Sarah Burnell, Erynn Marshall & Chris Coole**, and the **Kelli Trotter Band**. **Dawn Tyler Watson & Paul Deslauriers, DiggingRoots, Rachelle Van Zanten** and **Andy Cohen** participated in the **Saturday Blues** session hosted by **Rich Warren**. The **Canadian Spaces** session hosted by **Chopper McKinnon** featured artists often featured on the CKCU folk music show of the same name: **Charlie Sohmer, Ferron, Paul Mills, Holmes Hooke** and **Stella Haybukhai**. The magnificent ensemble **The Maple Leaf Brass Band** performed with great gusto beside the main stage.

Over at the **Bowie Electrical Stage**, four separate groups appeared in concert: a double bill with **Mike Evin** and **Zach Stevenson**, the funky Indian-jazz fusion band **Autorickshaw**, **Sarah Burnell, Paul Mills & Friends**, and **Tiiu Millistiver** and **ElizaBeth Hill**. An excellent spoken word session, **Word Play**, followed with the wordy talents of master storyteller **Holmes Hooke**, beat poet **Lillian Allen** and lowercase poet **bill bissett**.

At the **World Harmony Stage** in the **Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre**, a **CBC Live Fuse** show hosted by **Alan Neal** was taped featuring **Ridley Bent**, and **Ndidi Onukwulu & Madagascar Slim**. **Nubia Cermeno** hosted a lively **Cuban Dance** session with **Valle Son**. Later in the day, there was more dancing when **Steve Pritchard** hosted **Cajun Dance #1** session with **Grouyan Gombo**. Two separate concerts showcased the talents of **The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir** and **Dan Frechette**, and **Erik Manana**. **Kathy Armstrong** also hosted a **Kids Participatory Drumming Ensemble**.

A diverse day of entertainment took place on the **Metro Ottawa Stage**. Two groups of musicians appeared in concert: **Balfa Toujours** and the **Kelli Trotter Band**, and **The Supers** and **DiggingRoots**. The **Nature of Things** session hosted by **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** featured

Ian Tamblyn, Sheila M Ross, and ElizaBeth Hill. The **Nature of Strings** session on the other hand, showcased **James Hill, Old Man Luedecke, and Silk Road Duo** and was hosted by **Rachel Hauraney**. The day ended with a session titled **It's Latin to Me** featuring **Valle Son** and the **Robert Michaels Band**.

At the **Loeb Glebe Stage** many musical explorations ensued, beginning with the **Musical Journeys** session hosted by **Steve Pritchard** featuring **Tiiu Millistver, Andy Cohen** and **Dan Frechette**. **Gene Swimmer** hosted the **Director's Choice** session featuring **Ridley Bent, James Hill, and Dawn Tyler Watson & Paul Deslauriers**. Two separate concerts showcased **Eileen Laverty** and **Silk Road Duo**. **Erin Barnhard** hosted the **Appalachian Echoes** session with the **Dirk Powell Band, Erynn Marshall & Chris Coole, and Old Man Luedecke**. The fascinating **East Meets West** session hosted by **Rachel Hauraney** included **Autorickshaw, Silk Road Duo** and renowned sitar player **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**, who was once the teacher of **Harry Manx**.

There was plenty happening at the **Rogers Stage**. **Colin Henein** hosted the **Music from the Glen** session inspired by the CKCU radio show, and featuring **Orealis, Eileen Laverty and Sarah Burnell, and April Verch**. **Pat Moore** hosted the **Salutin' Rasputin's** session with **Charlie Sohmer, Stella Haybukhai, Rick Hayes** and **Don Fletcher**. The **Big Smoke** session hosted by **Bill Stunt** featured Toronto performers **Ron Sexsmith, Mike Evin** and **Amy Millan**. **Ron Moores** hosted the **Back 40 Live** session inspired by his old-time country music show on CKCU, featuring **Amy Millan, Ridley Bent, and Dallas & Travis Good** of The Sadies. The **Songwriters' Songwriters** session featured the calibre of songwriters you might expect: **Eliza Gilkyson, Ferron, Ron Sexsmith** and **Rich Warren**. The day ended with a solo concert from **Eliza Gilkyson**.

The **CKCU-FM Stage** hosted music as diverse as the station's programming. **MaryLou Hulan** and **Monica Wolfe** kicked things off with the **Kindermusic** session. Separate concerts were performed in a range of styles by **Fran Avni, Sho Mo** and **The Monkey Bunch, Folka Voca, Silk Road Duo, ElizaBeth Hill** and **Andy Cohen**.

The **Ottawa Folklore Centre** stage entertainment opened with a concert with **Folka Voca**. Two educational sessions followed: **Singing Tips for Everyone** hosted by **Lee Hayes**, and **Learn to Play the Harmonica** with **Miles Howe**. **Arthur McGregor** hosted the song circle session **Rise Up Singing**. The day ended with an **Open Mic** session allowing participants the opportunity to perform onstage to a receptive audience.

In the **CUPE EnviroTent**, sessions were held to educate people in environmental topics including **Renewable Energy for Home Owners** with **Sean Twomey of Arbour Environmental Shoppe, Healthy Lifestyles with Raw Vegan Food** with **Natasha Kyssa** of **SimplyRaw, Bringing Your Garden to Life** with **Sandy Garland** of **Fletcher Wildlife Garden,** and **Environmental Politics** with **David Chernushenko** of the Green Party.

The **Family Craft Area** provided lots of fun for families including the following sessions: **Drum Making for Kids** with **Gaelen Hart, Making Paper Bag Puppets** with **Liz Murphy, Making Jewellery** with **Heather Boyd** of **Filament,** and **Making Wire Art** with **Emily Wood**.

On the **CUPE Main Stage** the night kicked off with the lively French-Canadian ensemble **Mauvais Sort** and continued with **Ridley Bent**, the Cajun group **Balfa Toujours**, and the accomplished flamenco guitarist **Robert Michaels**. Two superb singer-songwriters at the top of their game, **Ferron** and **Ron Sexsmith**, followed with excellent solo sets.

Alternative evening programming on the **World Harmony Stage** opened with the mesmerizing **Autorickshaw**, whose music is a wonderful melange of South Indian classical music, Bollywood-tinged jazz standards and Indo-jazz originals. **The Supers** and the popular alt-folk group **The Sadies** rounded out the night's entertainment.

The **After Party** at the **Travelodge Hotel Ottawa West** showcased a diverse cross-section of roots music with **Ndidi Onukwulu & Madagascar Slim**, **April Verch** and **DiggingRoots**.

Sunday, August 20

On Sunday morning, the **First Annual Musical Festival Brunch** featured great food and the talents of **Frida's Brow**, **Ndidi Onukwulu & Madagascar Slim**, **Michael Munnik**, **Ann Downey** and host **Cam Wells**. An **Ottawa Folklore Centre Celebration** featured **Ian Tamblyn**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, **Jan Purcell** and **Pine Road**, **Eileen Laverty**, **Chris MacLean** and host **Arthur McGregor**. An **Afternoon Raga** showcased the renowned sitar player **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**. The **East-West Extravaganza** hosted by **Eric Stein** featured **Beyond the Pale**, **Silk Road Duo** and **Galitcha**.

Four excellent concerts were held on the **Bowie Electrical Stage** featuring **Dan Frechette** and **Old Man Luedecke**; **Kelli Trottier Band** and **Pat Moore**; **Jan Purcell** and **Pine Road** and **Zach Stevenson**; and **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt** and **Galitcha**. The session **Speaking Words** featured poets **John Akpata**, **Sheila M Ross**, **Lillian Allen**, and **bill bissett**.

The **World Harmony Stage** in the cool confines of the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre was a happening place. The entertainment started with concerts with **Mostly Harmless** and **Mark Wilson**, and a group comprising **Erynn Marshall & Chris Coole** and **Andy Cohen**. Two dance sessions celebrated dance styles: **Klezmer Dance** (**Susan Watts & KlezKanada All-Star Dance Band** with instructor **Michael Alpert**); and **Cajun Dance #2** (**Balfa Toujours** and **Jody Benjamin**).

Sho Mo and **The Monkey Bunch** were the first group to appear in concert on the **Metro Ottawa Stage**; **Mauvais Sort** was the second. The **Tout le Monde** session hosted by **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** featured **Balfa Toujours**, **Mauvais Sort**, and **Erick Manana**. **Sharon Fernandez** hosted the session **2 Pianos, 6 Hands** with **Marilyn Lerner** of **KlezKanada**, **Braydis (Valle Son)** and **Mike Evin**. **Cam Wells** hosted the **Musical Traditions** session with **Ndidi Onukwulu & Madagascar Slim**, **Killi Trottier Band**, and **Erynn Marshall & Chris Coole**.

Laurie-Ann Copple hosted the **Lost and Found** session on the **Loeb Glebe Stage** with **Eve Goldberg**, **Eileen Laverty** and **Holmes Hooke**. The **East-West Blues** session showcased the considerable talents of **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**, **Rachell van Zanten**, **Rick Fines** and host **Sharon Fernandez**. **Carolyn Sutherland** was the host of the session titled **African Guitar Pinnacle**

with **Madagascar Slim, Erick Manana and The Mighty Popo**. The amusingly titled **Stringed Things** session was hosted by Ottawa Folk Festival volunteer **Zita Murphy-Brascoupe** and featured **Vanya Zhuk, Robert Michaels and The Mighty Popo**. The day ended with the **Galaxie Rising Stars** session featuring musical luminaries **Mark Wilson, Rachelle van Zanten and Michael Munnik**.

On the **Rogers Stage**, **Morna Ballantyne** hosted the **Politically Direct** session with **Eliza Gilkyson, Lillian Allen, John Akpata and Alise Marlane**. A **Phil Ochs Tribute** was hosted by his sister **Sonny Ochs** and featured **Zach Stevenson** (who had formerly appeared in a Phil Ochs musical play), **Eve Goldberg and Alise Marlane**. Host **Mike Regenstreif** led the **Common Ground** session with the **Dirk Powell Band, Dan Frechette and Robert Michaels**. **Doc** was on hand to host the **Doc's Pick** session showcasing **Eliza Gilkyson, Rick Fines and Jennifer Noxon**. The **First Verses Only** session, hosted by Mitch Podolak, featured **Sneezy Waters, Arthur McGregor, Andy Cohen, Ann Downey, Dan Frechette, Eve Goldberg and Rick Fines**.

The audience at the **CKCU-FM Stage** was treated to concerts with **Silk Road Duo, Fran Avni, Old Man Luedecke, Holmes Hooke and Klezmer: The Next Generation**. The last item on the folk agenda was the annual, always fun, noisy and wonderful **Sunshine Parade**, a musical percussion-rich procession of kids of all ages that wound its way to the main stage.

On **The Ottawa Folklore Centre Stage** several instructional sessions were presented: **Blues Guitar for Beginners** with **Andy Cohen**, **Learn to Play the Ukelele** with virtuoso **James Hill**, and **Learn to Play the Tin Whistle** with **Andy Daub**. The day ended with an **Open Mic** session.

The **CUPE EnviroTent** was the site of several information sessions with environmental themes: **Water: A Basic Human Right?** with **Tony Clark** of the **Polaris Institute**, **Food Security** with **Juniper Turgeon** of **Just Food**, **Patchwork Quilting** with **Joanne Hyslop**, **Terminator Seeds** with **Pat Roy Mooney** of the **ETC Group**, and **Renewing the Sacred Balance** with **Kristina Inrig** (of the **Faith and the Common Good** organization).

Kids in the **Family Craft Area** were treated to the following sessions: **Drum Making for Kids** with **Gaelan Hart**, and **Making Paper Bag Puppets** with **Liz Murphy**.

The **CUPE Main Stage** evening concert opened with a lively **Klezmer** showcase featuring **Beyond the Pale** and continued with the Cuban sounds of **Valle Son** and American singer-songwriter **Dar Williams**. **The Terry Penner Festival Choir with Mike McDonald** graced the stage with a typically uplifting performance. The Burundi-flavoured pop of **The Mighty Popo** was followed by an American husband and wife who performed separate sets: **Greg Brown** and **Iris DeMent**. Contemporary singer-songwriter Greg Brown performed in three previous Ottawa Folk Festivals, while this was the first performance here by his spouse, country folk performer Iris DeMent.

Alternative evening programming was found on the **World Harmony Stage** in the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre. The featured sessions were **Cajun Dance with Balfa Toujours, Frida's Brow,**

and a **Super Session 2006** featuring **Rick Fines, Rachelle van Zanten, James Hill, Eve Goldberg** and **Miles Howe**.

The music continued after the festival gates closed Sunday night with two **Festival Wrap-Up Concerts** on Monday night. At the **Black Sheep** in Wakefield, Quebec, a double bill featured singer-songwriters **Dar Williams** and **Dan Frechette**. **The Dirk Powell Band** whooped it up at **The Bayou** in Ottawa.

Year 14 (2007)

The Times They are 'a-Changin'

Photos

Changes were everywhere at the 2007 Ottawa Folk Festival. Following the departure of long-time **Executive Director Gene Swimmer**, **Tamara Kater** came on board as Executive Director, bringing a fresh approach and new ideas to the festival. The layout of the festival changed with the main gate and box office repositioned and the artisans and vendors moved closer to each other. Enhanced bus services made it easier to get to the festival without taking the car, while more visible signage helped folks find their way around. Greater community involvement brought more local organizations in to set up tables, and more green initiatives were introduced. Other changes made it easier to dance and to enjoy the volunteer experience!

Woody Guthrie was celebrated at the festival in many ways. An interactive, multi-media presentation was given by Woody's daughter **Nora Guthrie** on Saturday afternoon. An interview about Woody Guthrie's life and influence featuring **Kris Kristofferson**, **Nora Guthrie** and **Jimmy LaFave** was conducted by journalist Mike Regenstreif on Saturday afternoon. It was followed by a 90-minute main stage tribute to Woody Guthrie entitled "Ribbon of Highway" featuring **Kris Kristofferson**, **Jimmy LaFave**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, **Ray Bonneville** and **Joel Rafael**. A spectacular display was set up in the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre that included photos from the **Woody Guthrie Archives**, along with samples of Woody's handwritten lyrics and visual art. A concert featuring Woody's children's songs was held on Sunday. Finally, an award-winning film entitled "**Man in the Sand**", about Woody Guthrie's life and influence was held at the **National Library and Archives** on Monday, August 20.

Other highlights of the festival included performances by **Kris Kristofferson** and **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, as well as **Penny Lang** receiving the **Helen Verger Award**. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** hosted the main stage throughout the festival.

Thursday, August 16

This year the festival returned to Thursday night programming at Britannia Park. **Arthur McGregor** performed his ragtime-style acoustic guitar rendition of the national anthem on the **CUPE Main Stage**, as he has done each year since the first festival. The **Meredith Luce Band**, calypso band **Kobo Town**, the innovative **Amos the Transparent** and banjo songster **Old Man Luedecke** then performed. The evening ended with the danceable music of Ottawa's own jazz-fusion group, the **Souljazz Orchestra**.

Friday, August 17

The entertainment on the **CUPE Main Stage** opened with an Ottawa blues man and his musical pals: **Tony D & Friends**. A spellbinding performance from **Kiran Ahluwalia** followed. The Canadian singer specializes in ghazals and Punjabi folk songs, and her soaring vocals were one of the highlights of the festival. **Oh Susannah**, a Canadian vocalist steeped in roots and Appalachian-style traditional music appeared next and was followed by the wonderfully named

bluegrass band **The Foggy Hogtown Boys**. The greatly anticipated performance by the legendary **Kris Kristofferson** ended an exceptional evening of entertainment. The American singer-songwriter extraordinaire wowed the larger than average crowd with a set that included a combination of old and new material. Luckily, Kristofferson also appeared in workshops during the rest of the weekend.

Performances also took place in the **Bowie Electrical Hall** (in the **Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre**) including the traditional ensemble the **Carolina Chocolate Drops**, the rootsy **Doug & Jess Band**, **Juliana**, and **Mansa Sissoko**, a kora player from Mali.

Saturday, August 18

In the **Bowie Electrical Hall**, the excitement began with a **Festival Drumming Workshop** for kids 8 to 15 with **Kathy Armstrong** followed by a session with **The Boys and Girls Club Drummers**. The **Results of Cross-Cultural Music Experiment #1** session featured the **Carolina Chocolate Drops**, **Jah Youssef** and **Lewis Melville**, and was hosted by **Petr Cancura**. An interview hosted by **Mike Regenstreif** chronicling Woody Guthrie's influences featured a panel of **Kris Kristofferson**, **Nora Guthrie** and **Jimmy LaFave**. **I Know an Old Lady** was the unusual title of a tribute to Alan Mills hosted by CBC arts guru **Alan Neal** that featured **Bram Morrison** and **Lorne Brown**.

The **Penguin Eggs Garden** was named for the Canadian folk magazine *Penguin Eggs*. The entertainment on this stage opened with the **African Morning** session with **Mansa Sissoko**. The session **This Land is Your Land: the Story of Woody Guthrie** was a multimedia presentation hosted by his daughter **Nora Guthrie**. **The Music of Rev. Gary Davis** was celebrated by **Andy Cohen**. **From the Heart** was a session showcasing the talents of **Mary Murphy** with **Paul Keim**, **Jimmy LaFave** and **Lewis Melville**.

Over at the **Ten Thousand Villages Beach Stage**, the **Once Upon a Time** session hosted by **Anne-Marie Brugger** included story songsters **Heather Dale & Ben Deschamps**, **Michelle Desbarats** and **Nathan**. The **Living Traditions** session featured **Andy Cohen**, **Arthur McGregor** and host **Bram Morrison**. **You Must be Joking** was a jovial session hosted by **Terry Eagan** with **The Arrogant Worms**, and **Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman**. **Roch Parisien** of **Galaxie**, CBC's Continuous Music Network, hosted the **Rising Stars** session featuring **David Gaudet**, **Lindsay Jane** and **Rose Cousins**.

Doc, a regular on the CKCU folk music show *Canadian Spaces*, hosted **Doc's Pick** featuring the talents of **Kate Weekes**, **Oh Susannah** and **Ray Bonneville**.

The fun in the **CKCU Kid Zone** started out with the **Carolina Chocolate Drops** and continued with **Stories for Kids** with **Lorne Brown**, a **Musical Instrument Petting Zoo** and an **Instrument Making for Kids** session. **Curtis Jonnie (Shingoose)** was followed by a wire sculpture workshop for kids with **Heather Boyd** of Filament and a craft workshop for kids with **Helen & Ingrid Sherling** of Nicbela. The kids were also treated to a session showcasing **Easy Flamenco Rhythms** with **Juliana**, and a mini-concert with **Penny Lang**.

At the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Point Stage**, the **All about the Groove** session hosted by **Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman** included **Pepe Danza** and **Ray Bonneville**. The **Music of South America** session featured **Turpial**. **Juliana** hosted the **Rhythm and Shoes** session with poet **Stuart Ross** and musician **Pepe Danza**. The evocative **Painting Pictures** session was led by master storyteller **Buffy Sainte-Marie** and featured **Christian Masotti** and **Kaie Kellough**. A tuneful **Vocal Harmony** session hosted by Mike McCormick featured **The Arrogant Worms**, **Chris Whiteley & Diana Braithwaite** and **The Good Lovelies**.

The **Loeb Glebe Hill Stage** opened with the **Up North, Down South** session with **Jimmy LaFave** and **Kate Weekes**. The **Back 40 Live** session named for the CKCU radio show was led by **Ron Moores** and featured **Dirk Powell**, the **Foggy Hogtown Boys**, and the **Doug & Jess Band**. **Steve Pritchard** hosted the **Prestidigitation** session featuring the nimble fingers of the **Foggy Hogtown Boys**, **Lindsay Jane** and **Miles Howe**. **Cam Wells**, cohost of the CKCU folk music show *Canadian Spaces*, hosted **The Sum of the Parts** session with the **Doug & Jess Band** and **The Gruff**. The **Spoken World** session featured spoken word specialists **Kaie Kellough**, **Michelle Desbarats**, **Sheila M Ross**, **Stuart Ross** and host **Sean Wilson**.

The **Rogers Tree Stage** entertainment began appropriately with **New Beginnings**, a session hosted by **Eliza Gilkyson** that highlighted the talents of **Lindsay Jane** and **Martha Scanlan**. **Tales from the Road** was hosted by **Paul Symes**, owner of the Black Sheep Inn and showcased **Oh Susannah**, **Old Man Luedecke** and **Rose Cousins**. The **Songs of Peace** session attracted a huge crowd. It was hosted by **Sonny Ochs**, the sister of Phil Ochs and featured the stellar talents of **Kris Kristofferson**, **Buffy Sainte-Marie** and **Penny Lang**. **Music from the Glen** was a session named for the CKCU Celtic music show and was hosted by **Colin Henein**. It included **Andy Daub**, **Heather Dale & Ben Deschamps**, and **Mary Murphy** with **Paul Keim**. The day wound down with the **Mountain Music** session hosted by **Dirk Powell** and featuring the **Caroline Chocolate Drops**, **Martha Scanlan**, **Michael Jerome Browne** and **Old Man Luedecke**.

In the **CUPE EnviroTent**, workshops were held on topics including **Switching to Renewable Energy at Home** with **Sean Twomey**, **Speaking Out: Public Speaking Tips** with **Pamma Durin**, **How Technology Affects the Environment** with **John Buschek**, **Green Energy for Everyone** with **Bullfrog Power** and the **Life, Money and Illusion** session with author **Mike Nickerson**.

The **OFC Music Knoll** featured the **N’Goni Building Demonstration** with **Jah Youssouf** and **Basic Flamenco Rhythms** with **Juliana**, followed by **The Craziest Right Hand Banjo Picking Pattern Ever** session with **Max Cossette**. This was followed by a **Folk Jam with Tony D** session that encouraged audience participation using provided instruments. A second **N’Goni Building Demonstration** was followed by an **Open Mic** session.

Other activities included **Taoist Tai Chi** workshops near the EnviroTent.

In the evening on the **CUPE Main Stage**, **Hoots and Hellmouth** opened the evening entertainment. **Ray Bonneville** delivered a wonderful set of his original singer-songwriter

material for his third festival appearance. **Penny Lang** received the **Helen Verger Award**. The Canadian singer-songwriter was honoured for her exceptional career that spanned more than 40 years. Her longstanding connection with the festival began with performances at the inaugural festival on Victoria Island in 1994.

Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman performed a rhythmic and tuneful set before **Buffy Sainte-Marie** performed to an appreciative audience. The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** transported us to a bygone era with their rootsy southern USA music. The evening ended with the first Canadian presentation of the magnificent **Ribbon of Highway Tribute to Woody Guthrie**. The 90-minute tribute to the words and music of Woody Guthrie featured **Kris Kristofferson, Eliza Gilkyson, Ray Bonneville, Jimmy LaFave** and **Joel Rafael**, with narrator **Bob Childers**. The tribute celebrated a unique individual whose massive influence continues to be felt.

On the **Bowie Electrical Stage** in the air-conditioned comfort of the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, the audience was treated to performances from traditional folk stylists **The Gruff**, along with singer-songwriters **Nathan**, and **Jason Lang** (son of Penny) with **Michael Jerome Brown** and **Petr Cancura**. This was followed by a set with **The Good Lovelies**. The evening ended with a rootsy quadruple bill of **David Gaudet, Meredith Luce, Old Man Luedecke** and **Rose Cousins**.

Sunday, August 19

The final day of the festival kicked off in the **Bowie Electrical Hall** with a **Festival Drumming Workshop** for kids 8 to 15 led by **Kathy Armstrong**, followed by a performance from **Bram Morrison**. The session **Results of Cross-Cultural Music Experiment #3** showcased **Chris Whitely & Diana Braithwaite, Mansa Sissoko** and host **Petr Cancura**. The **Blues Sources** session featured **Ray Bonneville, Tony D** and host **Michael Jerome Browne**. The final session of the day was an energetic **Klezmer Dance** with **Oy Division**.

Over at the **Penguin Eggs Garden**, **Curtis Jonnie (Shingoose)** appeared in concert, and was followed by the **Banjorama Unplugged** session hosted by **Ann Downey**, featuring the **Doug & Jess Band** and **Old Man Luedecke**. **Making It Up as We Go Along** showcased **Andy Cohen, Christian Masotti, Miles Howe** and **Petr Cancura**.

At the **Ten Thousand Villages Beach Stage**, the session **Results of Cross-Cultural Music Experiment #2** showcased the talents of **The Gruff, Mushfiq Ensemble, Pepe Danza** and host **Petr Cancura**. The **African/American** session featured **Dirk Powell, Jah Youssouf, Martha Scanlan** and host **Andy Cohen**. The **Mixed Blessings** session hosted by **Mike Regenstreif** included **David Gaudet, Eliza Gilkyson, and Mary Murphy**. The **Good Vibes** session featured **The Gruff** and **Hoots & Hellmouth**. The day ended with **Danse Africaine**, a session with **Elage**.

In the **CKCU Kid Zone**, things started with a bang at the **Percussion Petting Zoo** and continued with performances by **Christian Masotti** and **Mushfiq Ensemble**, as well as craft and drumming workshops and performances. **Joel Rafael** led a **Woody Guthrie Songs** session and the day ended with the joyous annual **Sunshine Parade** where everyone was welcome to join a musical, percussion-filled procession to the main stage area where costumes were optional but encouraged.

At the **Ottawa Folklore Centre Point Stage**, the day opened with the **Rise and Shine Session** with **Eliza Gilkyson, Jason Lang**, and host **Sheila M Ross**. An improvisational dance session by the **Grasshoppa Dance Exchange** was followed by an **A Capella** session showcasing **Mary Murphy** and **Nathan**, and host **Diana Braithwaite**. **Curtis Jonnie (Shingoose), Michelle Desbarats** and host **Lindsay Jane** appeared in the **This Land is Our Land** session. **Old Man Luedecke** hosted the session titled **I Quit My Job** with **The Good Lovelies** and **Kate Weekes**. The final session, **Matters of the Heart**, featured **Lindsay Jane, Nathan** and host **Stuart Ross**.

The **Loeb Glebe Hill Stage** opened for the day with **Looking Back**, showcasing **Michael Jerome Browne, Martha Scanlan, Oh Susannah** and host **Louis Meyers**. **Jennie Stratton** hosted the **Music as a Bridge** session with **Elage, Joel Rafael**, and **Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman**. The **Human Nature** session featured **Heather Dale & Ben Deschamps, Rose Cousins** and **Kaie Kellough**, and was hosted by **Karen Flanagan McCarthy**. The **Grasshoppa Dance Exchange** showcased improvisational dance. **Chopper McKinnon** hosted the **Canadian Spaces** session with **Chris Whitely, Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman** and **Rose Cousins**. A very special event followed. The Ottawa Folklore Centre distributed 300 free pennywhistles to the audience and **Andy Daub** gave everyone a free introductory lesson on this traditional instrument. How folkie can you get?

The fun on the **Rogers Tree Stage** began with a **Celtic Jam** with **Alf Warnock**. **Tom Werbo** hosted the **Spontaneous Combustion** session featuring **The Arrogant Worms**, and **Hoots & Hellmouth**. **Grasshoppa Dance Exchange** contributed improvisational dance. The **Music from the Andes** session featured **Turpial**. **Ann Downey** was the host of the **Deep Roots** session featuring **Dirk Powell** and **Oh Susannah**. The final session of the day was a **Super Blues Jam** hosted by **Tony D** and showcasing the talents of **Andy Cohen, Chris Whitely & Diana Braithwaite, Jah Youssouf, Penny Lang** and **Ray Bonneville**.

The **CUPE EnviroTent** featured discussions as well as sessions including **Against Uranium Mining** with **John Kittle**, and **Non-Toxic Personal Care Products** with **Patti Murphy & Tamey McIntosh**.

On the **OFC Music Knoll**, **Petr Cancura** was featured in the session titled **Improvising Over Chord Changes**. **Arthur McGregor** led the **Rise Up Singing** session followed by a **Harmonica for Beginners** session led by **Catriona Sturton**. **Ellen MacIsaac** introduced Irish music to the crowd at the session **Introduction to Sean Nos**. After improvisational dance with **Grasshoppa Dance Exchange**, an **Open Mic** session ended the day.

Other activities included the **Second Annual Musical Festival Brunch** hosted by **Cam Wells** and featuring the **Doug & Jess Band, Mary Murphy** and surprise guests. The festival goers also had a chance to try out **Taoist Tai Chi** near the EnviroTent.

The **CUPE Main Stage** evening entertainment opened with the **Mushfiq Ensemble** performing Afghani and North Indian folk music in many languages. **Andy Rush and the Terry Penner Festival Choir** gave a particularly moving performance that included a wonderful version of

“This Land is Your Land” and other Woody Guthrie tunes. Up and coming PEI singer-songwriter **Rose Cousins** was followed by favourite festival funny guys **The Arrogant Worms**, who performed their famous Alligator song to the delight of the audience members who got into the act with the usual wild hand motions. Performances by **Dirk Powell & Martha Scanlan** and American songstress **Eliza Gilkyson** were followed with a highly danceable set from **Cheza**, an Ottawa band that blends African styles with rock and folk influences. The final segment brought the evening’s performers back to the main stage for a dramatic finale.

The music in the **Bowie Electrical Hall** opened with **Heather Dale & Ben Deschamps**. It was followed with **Pepe Danza and Friends**, **Jah Youssouf**, and **Chris Whitely & Diana Braithwaite**. The festival wrapped up with the female trio of **Ann Downey, Kate Weekes and Lindsay Jane**.

Year 15 (2008)

A Party for the People!

Photos

The fifteenth **Ottawa Folk Festival** certainly lived up to its billing as a party for the people! And party we did, while listening, singing, dancing, building, painting and celebrating. A 2,000 square foot dance tent, a free ukelele-building workshop, a **ParticiPaint** mural honouring the late **Willie P. Bennett** and the **Terry Penner Festival Choir** are but a few of the opportunities people had to “party-cipate”.

Festival highlights included a moving performance from **Odetta** (who died on Dec. 2, 2008 at the age of 77); and appearances by **The Experimental Farmers**, **Catherine MacLellan**, **Don Ross & Andy McKee**, **Finest Kind** and the **Healing Divas**. A moving tribute to **Rasputin’s Folk Café** was particularly well attended in the wake of a July 2008 fire at the legendary Ottawa folk club that led to its closing.

An exciting feature at this year’s festival was the **2008 Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Collaboration** featuring **Anne Davison** (Nova Scotia), **Benoit Bourque** (Quebec), **The Carolina Chocolate Drops** (North Carolina), **Claire Jenkins** (Toronto), **James Hill** (Nova Scotia), **Jaxon Haldane** (Winnipeg), **Mohamed Diarra** (Guinea/Gatineau), **Petr Cancura** (New York/Ottawa), **Radoslav Lorkovic** (Nashville), **Roda de Samba** (Brazil/Ottawa), **Shara Weaver** (Ottawa), and **Timothy Mason** (Boston).

This year’s festival was the greenest yet. A festival **Green Team** was established and new initiatives included providing water stations to refill reusable water bottles, making only compostable water bottles available on-site, arranging food for a volunteer lunch to be supplied locally from the **Lansdowne Farmers Market**, and composting food scraps. Other innovations included a vehicle-free site, pedal-powered cargo trikes to haul equipment and supplies, and using solar power to wash plates. Green printing materials were used for festival promotional material, banners and T-shirts. A partnership with **Ottawa Riverkeeper** and **Ecology Ottawa** was also established to educate people about local water and watershed management issues.

Continuing initiatives included the reusable dish program, electricity from renewable sources supplied by **Bullfrog Power**, compostable beer cups provided by **Big Rock Brewery** and “cupsucker” receptacles provided by **Blue Heron Solutions**. Folks were encouraged to walk, bike or take public transit to the festival.

Grasshoppa Dance Exchange gave impromptu dance performances all around the site and was joined this year by **Dancing in the Street**, a project of the **Ottawa School of Dance**.

The **Community Corner** was designed to foster discussion and promote awareness. The following organizations had tables this year: Green Party of Canada/Ottawa Greens; ArtsCan Circle; Ecology Ottawa; Ottawa Riverkeeper; Amnesty International; Canada 211; Catholic

Immigration Centre of Ottawa; Oxfam Canada; The Ottawa Food Bank; Ottawa Community Immigration Services Organization; and USC Canada.

There were many awards presented at this year's festival. **J. Chalmers Doane** received the **Helen Verger Award**, which is presented to an individual who has made valuable contributions to folk/roots music in Canada. While working as the Director of Music Education in Halifax in the 1970s, Doane developed a method of teaching students to play music using the ukulele. More than 50,000 schoolchildren and adults throughout Canada and in parts of the U.S. learned to play the ukulele as a result of his efforts. He was recognized with the Order of Canada in 2004 and recently collaborated with ukulele virtuoso James Hill to develop the Ukulele in the Classroom program. **Margaret Feuerstack** and **David Johnstone** received the **One Fret Less Award** sponsored by **Harvey and Louise Glatt**. **James Farr** was presented with the **Galaxie Rising Stars Award**. **Ana Miura** was the recipient of the **Beth Ferguson Award**.

Arthur II is a gifted Ottawa artist and musician who designed this year's participatory mural project to honour Canadian folk music legend **Willie P. Bennett**, who died in February. The huge success of the ParticiPaint mural project at the 2007 festival inspired Arthur II to create an 8 foot by 40 foot mural, which he named after one of Willie's best-loved songs, "Music in Your Eyes". The result was a fantastic and heartwarming tribute to one of Canada's finest singer-songwriters and musicians.

Windhorse Yoga offered participatory yoga sessions to help festival goers stretch, relax and breathe while **Santosha Yoga** offered a group singing session.

Thursday, August 14

Colores Andinos, a Latin-Andean musical ensemble of South American and Canadian extraction, opened the festival with panache on the **CUPE Main Stage**. The wonderfully named group, **The Experimental Farmers**, stole the show that evening. The Farmers included **Lynn Miles** on vocals and mandolin, **Lonesome Paul** on vocals and guitar, and **Keith Snider** on banjo and fiddle. **Finest Kind**, a group who has performed at the festival since the first year on Victoria Island, took the stage next. **Ian Robb**, **Ann Downey** and **Shelley Posen** performed a mix of traditional songs and original tunes with their usual exquisite three-part harmony. Brilliant fingerstyle guitarist **Don Ross** was joined by percussive guitar sensation **Andy McKee**, renowned for his YouTube rendition of "Drifting" that has garnered over 14 million hits. **Vieux Farka Touré** closed the evening with a lively set that combined traditional Malian blues music with rock and reggae. The group's performance was recorded by CBC Radio for "Canada Live".

In the **Dance Tent**, the **Carolina Chocolate Drops** set the audience in motion with their old-time string band music of the Carolinas. The delicious Drops were followed by the **D. Rangers**, a band whose music has been described as "mutant bluegrass". The evening closed with **Brisa Latina**, a group known for their enticing fusion of classic and contemporary Latin rhythms, and their ability to get any crowd moving to the beat!

Friday, August 15

The lovely **Ana Miura** opened the **CUPE Main Stage** with her gentle, acoustic self-penned tunes. **Bryan Bowers**, a native of Virginia now living in California, mesmerized the crowd with his virtuoso autoharp performance. The **Jerry Douglas Band** featured another virtuoso. Jerry Douglas, renowned for his resophonic guitar playing, has appeared on a staggering 2,000 albums and has won a dozen Grammys. The audience witnessed a stellar performance from this master picker/slide guitarist and his bandmates. **Dala** features two 20-something vocalists who play guitar and piano. The duo created a set with uplifting sweet harmonies and folk-pop songs. The excitement built as indie favourites **Broken Social Scene** took the stage. The band delivered a free-flowing, guitar-driven and dynamic vocal performance.

In the **Dance Tent**, the fun began with a lively, infectious set with **Genticorum**, a Québécois band that has toured in over 15 countries worldwide. They were joined by the ever-popular **Benoit Bourque**. Bourque, who garnered a Juno Award and a Canadian Folk Music Award as a member of *Le Vent du Nord*, is an exuberant accordion player, a virtuoso percussionist on bones, spoons and feet, and a world-class Québécois step dancer. **Spiral Beach**, a band that includes the offspring of two well-known folkies, returned to the festival with their rhythmic indie rock and performed a rollicking set that was well received by the dancing throng. **Donna the Buffalo**, a five-member band from upstate New York, were up next with an eclectic offering of folk-rock, country folk, zydeco, reggae and bluegrass tunes. The evening concluded with a wonderful **Big Bad Bluegrass Jam** featuring **Jerry Douglas**, the **D. Rangers**, **Leavin' Train**, **The Experimental Farmers** and **Doug Cox**. We could have danced all night with this gang!

The entertainment on the **Hall Stage** in the **Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre** kicked off with a round-robin **Good Vibrations** session hosted by **Doug Cox**. The talented group included **Catherine MacLellan**, the **Healing Divas** and **Radoslav Lorkovic**. They were followed by **Claire Jenkins Avec Band**, featuring the theatrical actress and singer and her accompanists, who performed quirky and catchy tunes in both official languages. The **Doc's Pick** session, named for a regular feature of the CKCU folk music radio show "Canadian Spaces" was hosted by Doc himself, and featured a diverse and talented lineup. The **Carolina Chocolate Drops**, whose music is steeped in the string band tradition of the American South, were joined by modern bluesman **Jaxon Haldane**, cellist **Anne Davison**, and Boston-area spoken word artist **Timothy Mason**. The evening wound down with a rousing set by the **Chocolate Drops**.

Saturday, August 16 *Saturday Daytime*

Entertainment and activities abounded in the many daytime venues and on the three evening stages.

In the **Dance Tent**, **The Experimental Farmers** got toes a' tappin' and were followed by spirited performances from the **Carolina Chocolate Drops** and **Donna the Buffalo**. **Anne-Marie Brugger**, host of the CHUO radio show "Hop the Fence", led the **My Chemistry Experiment** session featuring spoken word guy **Timothy Mason**, members of **Broken Social Scene** and **Ana Miura**. The last performance of the afternoon was a Cajun dance featuring **Harlan Johnson & Grouyan Gombo**, **Michael Jerome Browne**, **Jody Benjamin**, **Michael Ball** and **Mary Gick**.

On the **Hall Stage**, a double bill showcased the talents of **Catherine MacLellan** and **Doug Cox**. **Anne-Marie Brugger** hosted the **Hop the Fence** session, named for her CHUO radio show that features Canadian musicians of all genres. Participants included **Chris Velan**, an unplugged **Spiral Beach**, and two members of the **Claire Jenkins** band. **Andy Rush** led the **Terry Penner Festival Choir** in its first rehearsal. **Jowi Taylor** hosted the **Six String Nation Guitar** session featuring pickers and gridders **Shelley Posen**, **Catherine MacLellan** and **Sean Cotton**. The afternoon's entertainment wound down with a supersonic double bill with two fascinating ensembles making their festival debuts. The five Toronto women comprising the **Healing Divas** entranced the audience with their positive energy, primal rhythms and luscious vocal harmonies. They were the best-kept secret of the festival. **Raymundo & Balam** dazzled the audience with their Spanish and Latin guitar styles.

On the scenic **Beach Stage**, the opening act was **Village Harmony**, a choir made up of 24 teenagers from Ontario and the eastern United States. The group performed music from Bulgaria, Georgia and South Africa. **Roch Parisien**, programmer of Galaxie's Folk/Roots channel, hosted the **Full Moon, Rising Stars** session with **James Farr**, winner of the **Galaxie Rising Stars Award**, emerging artist **Mélisande**, and guitarists **Raymundo & Balam**. **Claire Jenkins** hosted the wonderfully fun **Cheesy Songs We Love** session with guilty pleasure conspirators **Spiral Beach** and **Finest Kind**. The **Unaccompanied Ballad Singing** session with **Riley Baugus** and **Finest Kind** was hosted by CBC Radio 2 host and traditional Newfoundland music enthusiast **Tom Power**. **Genticorum** hosted the **Nos racines musicales** (translation: our musical roots) session and were joined by **Peter Andrée & Natacha Ducharme**, and **Mélisande**.

In the **Artisan Village**, audience members were fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the following hands-on workshops: **Working with Wood** – Solar Woodcuts (Ron Tremback); **Wear Your Message** – Global Aware (Sarah King); **Healthy Products for Your Skin** – U.fabu (D. Passmore); **Reclaiming Old Fabric** – Sew Very Vintage (Carol Elchuk); **Working with Glass** – Miller's Glass Reflections (Randy Miller); and **Re-working Jewellery for Metal Allergies** – Creations of the Heart (Tunica Haris).

On the **Hill Stage**, **Bryan Bowers** hosted the **Story Songs** session. Joining him was **Woody Johnson**, an individual who creates guitar music for a variety of material dating back to the 1800s. **James Hill** hosted the **Words and/or Music** session with **Margaret Feuerstack & David Johnstone** and **Timothy Mason**. The **Hand Me Down** session featured **Tao Rodriguez-Seeger** and **Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand**, and was hosted by **Michael Jerome Browne**. **Don Bird** was the host of the **Hummin' and Strummin'** session with **Dala**, **Bryan Bowers** and **Doug Cox**. **Maura Volante** led the audience in a **Songcircle** to round out the afternoon entertainment.

The verdant space of the **Tree Stage** set the scene for **A Touch of Jazz**. The session was hosted by **Petr Cancura** and showcased **Radoslav Lorkovic** and **Margaret Feurestack & David Johnstone**. **Dallas** and **Travis Good** of **The Sadies** teamed up with members of **Broken Social Scene** for the **Behind the Scenes** session. **Anne Davison** hosted **Sources of Inspiration** with **Woody Johnson** and **Petr Cancura**. **Tao Rodriguez-Seeger** hosted the **Global Villages** session with **Village Harmony**. The day concluded with the first concert in the **2008 Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Collaboration**.

On the **Point Stage**, the afternoon kicked off with the **Banjo Banjo Banjo** session hosted by **Ann Downey** and featuring **Dirk Powell, Riley Baugus**, and Donna the Buffalo bandmates **Jeb Puryear & Tara Nevins**. **Ottawa Folklore Centre** owner **Arthur McGregor** led the audience in the **Rise Up Singing** session. **Chopper McKinnon**, host of the CKCU radio show “Canadian Spaces”, led the session honouring his late, great friend **Willie P. Bennett**. Chopper told many anecdotes about his pal. **Remembering Willie P.** also included heartfelt performances by **Jaxon Haldane**, the **D. Rangers**, **Dallas Good**, **Travis Good** and **Lonesome Paul**. The **Healing Divas** hosted the **Musical Connections** session with **Peter Andrée & Natacha Ducharme** and **Chalmers Doane**. The **Ukulele 101** session was hosted by virtuoso performer **James Hill** and included **Chalmers Doane**.

In the **Kid Zone**, a wide variety of crafts and activities were available all day. For example, kids could make a kimono or a drum. There were also performances by musicians and jugglers as well as storytelling. **Yoga for Families** gave everyone a chance to stretch and relax.

At the **Enviro Tent**, green activities were happening all day. Jason Sonier of The Otesha Project presented the session **Cradle to Grave: The Life Cycle of a Banana**. The **Greening the Home** session was presented by Sean Twomey of Arbour Environmental Shoppe. Leaf Bellaar-Spruyt of Berg en Dal Honey Farms spoke about **Honey, Health and the Environment**. USC Canada members Kate Green and Sarah Mohan addressed the topic **Food, Farmer and Climate Chaos**. The session **Muscle Testing Techniques** was presented by Katherine Willow of the Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre. Charles Jonah of Jademark gave the presentation **The E-Bike: A Power-Assisted Electric Bicycle**.

Windhorse Yoga sponsored a number of activities. In the morning the Catholic Immigration Centre’s **CIC Community Cup Celebrity Soccer Match** took place in the field behind the Dance Tent. The 30-minute **Yoga Tasters** presentations held in the morning and afternoon included the following flavours of yoga: Hatha, Vinyasa Flow, Yin and Final Relaxation. **Uke Building for Kids** allowed children to make their very own ukuleles. In the Dance Tent there were the **1,000 Cranes: Origami for Everyone** activity and a display of the **Six String Nation Guitar**.

Our Main Stage hosts deserve special mention. **Chopper McKinnon** and **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** have hosted the festival Main Stage every year, starting in 1994 when the first festival was held on Victoria Island. Chopper McKinnon, an important figure in the Canadian folk/roots music scene, is perhaps best known for his CKCU radio show “Canadian Spaces”. The show first aired in 1980 and is the longest-running folk music show in Canada. Karen Flanagan McCarthy, affectionately known as KFM, is a communications expert who has played a significant role in the festival’s evolution, having served as a member of the festival’s steering committee and board of directors. She is also a former director of the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals. **Tom Power** is a Newfoundland musician, broadcaster and writer and the host of CBC Radio 2’s “Deep Roots”. **Alan Neal** is a journalist and radio personality who hosts two CBC Radio 2 shows: “Canada Live” and “Bandwidth”.

Thanks also to the many hosts who helped things run smoothly at the daytime sessions.

Saturday Evening

The Québécois band **Genticorum** opened the **CUPE Main Stage** and were warmly welcomed by the crowd. **Country Joe McDonald**, the iconic figure who played at Woodstock, sang his famous antiwar anthem, “I-Feel-Like-I’m-Fixin’-to-Die Rag”, and showed he still has a radical bent and an unfailing sense of humour. Two blue artists followed. First up was **Roxanne Potvin**, a 26-year-old Gatineau-raised singer who has earned Maple Blues and Juno nominations for her soulful, sultry singing. Her high-energy set was followed by **Colin Linden**. Linden, a master of the country-blues guitar, gave a powerful performance that reverberated throughout the audience. The evening closed with the charming **Sarah Harmer**. It doesn’t get any better than listening to Sarah singing under the stars on a Saturday night!

The **Dance Tent** performances began with **Wil**, a West Coast roots rocker known for his intense live performances. Next up were the **D. Rangers**, a Winnipeg band who served a heaping helping of their “mutant bluegrass” sound. Ottawa favourites **Ball and Chain** are always fun and their set was no exception. Country vocalist **Jody Benjamin** and fiddler **Michael Ball** are **Ball and Chain**. They were backed up by **The Wreckers**, and together they delivered classic country hurtin’ heartache with a Cajun twist. Just the thing to dance to on a warm summer night. **The Sadies**, led by **Dallas and Travis Good**, combined hillbilly and punk influences in their set.

In the **Hall Stage**, **Tao Rodriguez-Seeger** drew an audience eager to hear his songs of struggle and hope and stories about his granddad, Pete Seeger. The crowd enjoyed his “subversive acoustic traditionalist” approach to making music. A rousing set by **Village Harmony** rounded out the evening’s entertainment.

Sunday, August 17

There was plenty happening in the many daytime venues and on the three evening stages.

Sunday Daytime

In the **Dance Tent**, **Roda de Samba** presented **The Story of Samba**. **Donna the Buffalo** performed next. The session **Latin Breeze** was led by dance instructor **Nubia Cermeño** who taught festival goers how to samba. The dance floor was jam-packed! **The Experimental Farmers** hosted the **On the Edge** session with the **D. Rangers**, **Wil** and **Lonesome Paul**.

Andy Rush gathered members of the **Terry Penner Festival Choir** on the **Hall Stage** for their second rehearsal. **Claire Jenkins Avec Band** did a showcase set followed by a performance by **Wil**. A session posing the musical question **How Can I Keep from Singing?** featured **Odetta**, **Tao Rodriguez-Seeger** and **Finest Kind** and was hosted by **Mike Regenstreif**, host of the Montreal CKUT radio program “Folk Roots/Folk Branches”. The last choir rehearsal wrapped up the afternoon stage.

On the scenic **Beach Stage** a **Ukulele Jam** featured virtuoso **James Hill** and uke educator extraordinaire **Chalmers Doane**. They were joined musically by audience members. An American patron of the festival for many years, **Terry Eagan** of **Patio Records**, hosted the **Uncommon Ground** session with **Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus**, **Benoit Bourque** and blues

vocalist **Roxanne Potvin**. The **Old Blues** session hosted by **Colin Linden** showcased the talents of **Michael Jerome Browne**, **Woody Johnson** and **James Farr**. A very inspirational session, **Spirit Connections**, showcased the **Healing Divas** and **Village Harmony**.

A large crowd gathered for the **Here's to Rasputin's** session honouring **Rasputin's Folk Café**. The revered Ottawa folk club was forced to close its doors in 2008 following a fire. **Lynn Miles**, whose musical journey included a close involvement with Rasputin's in the early years, hosted this session and shared the stage with **Colin Linden** and **Catherine MacLellan**. This session provided some of the most poignant moments in the history of the Ottawa Folk Festival. Stories, songs, tears and laughter were shared. Owner **Dean Verger** spoke briefly and was given a standing ovation and many hugs during and following this moving tribute.

In the **Artisan Village**, there were presentations all day. **Heather Boyd** of **Filament** presented a workshop on **Wire Jewellery Techniques**. **The Lo-Down on Chair-Making** was given by **Jonny Lo** of **Lo-Chair**. **From Cutlery to Jewellery** was the theme of the workshop hosted by **Bloom/Ash/Postart Gallery**. **Ania Geerts** hosted a **Silver Smithing** workshop, while **Robert Webster** of **Maple Leaf Studio** demonstrated **Working with Stone**. **Artisans Around the World** was presented by **Ian Brown** of **Ten Thousand Villages**. The day concluded with **Randy MacNeil** of **Canadian Bluesbook** who discussed **Photo Techniques for Music Events**.

At the **Hill Stage**, the entertainment began with the second concert of the **2008 Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Collaboration**. The **Carolina Chocolate Drops** hosted the **Heaven and Earth** double bill with the **Healing Divas**.

Blacksheep Live was hosted by **Paul Symes**, owner of the famed **Blacksheep Inn** in Wakefield, Quebec. This session featured **James Hill**, **Anne Davison**, **Roxanne Potvin** and **Catherine MacLellan**. **Themes and Variations** was a session with **Laura Cortese** (Tao Rodriguez-Seeger), **Jeb Puryear** of **Donna the Buffalo**, and hosted by **Pascal Gemme** of **Genticorum**.

Over at the **Tree Stage**, **Maura Volante** led a songcircle. The **20 Something** session showcased two young groups: **Spiral Beach** and **Dala**. **Anne Davison** hosted the eclectic session **Exploratorium** with **Timothy Mason** and **Genticorum**. **Instrumentalism** was a session featuring **Doug Cox**, **James Farr** and **Aaron Goss** of **D. Rangers**. The third concert of the **2008 Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Collaboration** was very well received.

The **Point Stage** opened with **Colin Henein** of the CKCU radio show "Music from the Glen" hosting **The Art of Accompaniment** with **Tom Power**, **Yann Falquet** and **Ann Downey**. **Arthur McGregor**, owner of the Ottawa Folklore Centre, hosted the **Songs with a Message** session featuring **Country Joe McDonald** (of Woodstock fame) and **Finest Kind**. **Karen Flanagan McCarthy** led the **Tuned In to Nature** session with **Sarah Harmer**, **Jaxon Haldane** and **Ana Miura**. The lively **Accordion Overload** session showcased **Benoit Bourque**, **Radoslav Lorkovic**, **Harlan Johnson**, **Tara Nevins** and **Treasa Levasseur** (Claire Jenkins Avec Band), and was hosted by **Dirk Powell**. **Chalmers Doane** and **James Hill** introduced the uke in **Ukulele 101**.

In the **Kid Zone**, there were musical performances and many activities including kimono-making, drum making and craft workshops. There was also a session called **Yoga for Kids**.

The **Enviro Tent** provided talks and demonstrations throughout the day. **Albert Dumont** (Algonquin, Kitigan Zibi, Anishinabeg) spoke about **The Healing Power of Nature**. **Why Rivers Matter** was the topic addressed by **Christopher Kelly** of the **Ottawa Riverkeeper** organization. **Sean Twomey** of **Arbour Environmental Shoppe** spoke about **Renewable Resources**. **Practical Mud Pies: Cob for Building and Art Projects** was the theme of a discussion by **Leigh Thorpe** and **Brent Hyde** of **City Repair Ottawa**. **Katherine Willow** of the **Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre** spoke on **The Soul of Sustainability**. The newly formed **Folk Festival Green Team** presented the **How Are We Doing?** session to discuss the progress of the festival's green initiatives.

Windhorse Yoga sponsored afternoon events including **Uke Building for Kids**, **1,000 Cranes – Origami for Everyone** and the all-day **Six String Nation Guitar** display. The 30-minute **Yoga Tasters** presentations held in the afternoon included the following flavours of yoga: Hatha, Vinyasa Flow, Yin and Final Relaxation. At the **OFC Music Knoll**, educational programs ran all afternoon. In the **Catholic Immigration Centre (CIC) Language Village**, you could get a language passport and learn a few words in up to 10 languages.

Sunday Evening

The evening opened on the **CUPE Main Stage** with an exuberant set by **The Duhks** followed by the final performance of the **2008 Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Collaboration**, which was recorded by CBC Radio for later broadcast. The collaboration showcased the talents of more than a dozen performers from across Canada and the United States.

The entertainment continued with **James Hill** and **Anne Davison**. Hill, a virtuoso musician and world-class composer, was accompanied by classically trained cellist Anne Davison. The duo are known for creating magical performances and this one was no exception. **Andy Rush** and the **Terry Penner Festival Choir** performed a wonderful set of songs, including Willie P. Bennett's "Music in Your Eyes".

Festival goers were privileged to see **Odetta** in one of her final performances (she died three months after the festival). Performing in a wheelchair, Odetta was in fine voice and demonstrated why she has inspired so many in the civil rights movement and legions of folkies including Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. Her rendition of "This Little Light of Mine" was particularly poignant because she had memorably sung this song unamplified and unaccompanied during a power blackout at the festival five years before. Odetta's performance was recorded by CBC Radio.

The wild and wonderful **Rufus Wainwright** closed the evening with a thrilling performance. His mother Kate McGarrigle accompanied him on the grand piano for a few songs.

The performers in the **Dance Tent** included **Spiral Beach** and Prairie sensations **The Dukhs** who set toes tapping and feet flying. They were followed by Québécois band **Genticorum**. The evening wound down with a **Big Bad Blues Jam** with **Roxanne Potvin**, **Michael Jerome Browne**, **Radoslav Lorkovic** and surprise guests.

Country Joe McDonald was the popular first performer on the **Hall Stage** inside the **Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre**. A set by the luminous singer-songwriter **Catherine MacLellan** followed. The First Annual Ottawa Folk Festival “**Kirtan**”, a participatory session of singing, was hosted by **Santosha Yoga**. There was still time for spirited sets by **Dirk Powell, Riley Baugus and Friends**, and **The Dukhs** before the sun set on the 2008 Ottawa Folk Festival.