



April 19, 2008
**TWO ROADS
HOME**

www.tworoadshome.com

Bryan Williston and Abby Zotz are a guitar and voice - based folk duo that has been performing

together for close to twenty years now. Their music can be characterized as warm, sophisticated folk pop with Celtic roots, but not exclusively committed to the traditional. Fusing elements of traditional folk with bluegrass, country, Appalachian and popular music, the sound of TRH reflects the comfort and history they share.

Bryan and Abby began performing together in 1978 in their hometown of Whitby Ontario. Back then they were called *Harmony and Me* (a phrase from the Elton John song, *Harmony*), singing love songs and folk tunes at weddings and community events. Gordon Lightfoot, Janis Ian, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Murray McLauchlan and The Beatles laid the foundation for their evocative folk-pop approach. Over the years, life separated the pair although they touched base occasionally to share a tune or two. Education and careers took them on different paths: Abby worked as an actor on stage and in film and television, and founded the classical renaissance vocal trio, The MadriGALS; Bryan worked in children's music, ran a song circle with the Vital Spark Folk Club, and played in his pub act *Battered and Fried*. Their roads converged again in the fall of 2001. Two Roads Home celebrates the diverse paths and reunites the worlds of two old friends. Concert hall performer meets street busker; pub rocker meets renaissance siren. Life has taken them in divergent directions; the music brings them home.
Welcome back, our own TRH!

May 24, 2008
GARNET ROGERS

www.garnetrogers.com

At 18, Garnet Rogers was on the road as a full-time working musician with brother Stan. Together they formed what has come to be accepted as one of the most influential duos in the history of North American folk music. Garnet acted as producer and arranger for his late brother from 1973 to 1983, the year his older brother and best friend, Stan, died tragically in a plane crash.



Since then, Garnet Rogers has courageously established himself as a formidable solo artist. Hailed by the Boston globe as a "charismatic performer and singer" and "one of the major talents of our time," Garnet's vocal and instrumental talents are complimented by an undeniably powerful physical presence - close to six and a half feet tall - with the lungs to match. With his "smooth, dark baritone" (Washington Post) his incredible range, and thoughtful, dramatic phrasing, Garnet is widely considered by fans and critics alike to be one of the finest singers anywhere. His music, like the man himself, is literate, passionate, highly sensitive, and deeply purposeful. Cinematic in detail, his songs give expression to the unspoken language of the heart. An optimist at heart, Garnet sings extraordinary songs about people who are not obvious heroes and of the small everyday victories. As memorable as his songs, his over-the-top humor and lightning-quick wit move his audiences from tears to laughter and back again. Rogers has been the featured performer on numerous television and radio programs. He has been a headliner at concert venues and festivals. Though Garnet has enjoyed much popularity over the years, he remains resolutely independent, turning down offers from major labels to ensure that he continues doing music his own way.
Welcome back, Garnet!!



**The Vital Sparkler
Spring 2008**

www.vitalsparkfolksociety.ca
info@vitalsparkfolksociety.ca

The Vital Spark Folk Society has been a proud member of the Canadian folk community since 1990, and is a member of the OCFF. The Vital Spark is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run folk club.

We present monthly concerts, from October to May each year. Everyone is welcome!

ALL SHOWS ARE HELD AT THE
BROOKLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE
45 CASSELS ROAD BROOKLIN, ONTARIO
(wheelchair accessible)

Shows begin at 8 PM.

Tickets: \$20 each. Tickets are available in advance at the following locations:

- ~~ **The Potting Bench** 905.623.8888
30 King Street West,
BOWMANVILLE, ON
- ~~ **Mitchell Lumber** 905.655.4991
15 Church Street,
BROOKLIN, ON
- ~~ **Kerry** 905.987.4050
NEWCASTLE, ON
- ~~ **Vicki** 905.432.3237
OSHAWA, ON
- ~~ **Lafontaine** 905.430.3774
100 Brock Street South,
WHITBY, ON

Cash or cheque only, payable to "Vital Spark Folk Society"
Any remaining tickets will be available at the door on show nights.

For last minute information,
call the Community Centre at 905.655.3139
after 6 PM on show nights only.



January 19, 2008
AENGUS FINNAN

www.aengusfinnan.com

Born to a performing family in Dublin, Ireland, Aengus grew up in Shelter Valley, near Grafton, Ontario and spent time working as a research diver, an actor, an ornithologist, and a school-teacher before he started writing songs. Since first "busking" at the farmer's market in his hometown, Aengus Finnan has toured and performed from Baffin Island to the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. He now runs his own label, tours North America, and was recently awarded the "**New Folk Songwriting Award**" from the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas. He has presented concerts and community workshops from the streets of Whitehorse to theatres in Toronto, and worked with Elder Hostel programs, inmates in Federal Prisons, and students in schools and colleges across the country. His passionate interest in history and culture, his poetic eye towards the common people of the county, and his willingness to celebrate and share his work beyond the stage earned him a National Decoration (the "**Medal in Honour of The Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**") for his artistic and humanitarian contributions to Canada. He is the Artistic Director of the Shelter Valley Folk Festival, annually organizes a series of Gordon Lightfoot Tribute concerts, and is currently writing a Folk Opera.

Aengus is a favourite at the Vital Spark, and has performed for us in house concerts, festivals and solo concerts. Come out and reintroduce yourself to Aengus!

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[www.vitalsparkfolksociety.ca](http://www.vitalsparkfolksociety.ca)  
[info@vitalsparkfolksociety.ca](mailto:info@vitalsparkfolksociety.ca)



February 16, 2008  
**BILL CRAIG**

[www.billcraig.com](http://www.billcraig.com)

Celebrate St. Patrick and Robbie Burns with us!

Bill was born in Ireland, and moved to Canada in 1974. He has been making music since 1967, first with rock'n'roll bands, then as guitarist with Edward Bear, then as part of a duo with Don Garbutt, and as a solo Celtic music performer. Bill has toured Europe and North America extensively, and has at least 15 albums to his credit. Bill's sense of humour makes for an entertaining show!

A Dirty Linen CD review says, "Craig has a rumbling baritone voice reminiscent of ... Stan Rogers and Tommy Makem, and he does an excellent job with virtually every song. His straightforward guitar techniques include forceful strumming and gentle flatpicking ... all tastefully." Bill Craig's performance is relaxed eclectic, thought provoking, goofy and entertaining. His casual attitude is designed to include, not exclude his audience. Bill puts all his energy into his songs and makes a point of having a good time on stage.

February 16 is also our Address To The Haggis night, with our own Bobby Drummond.

Irish Stew, as well as tatties, neeps, and a few other goodies will be available as well.

Come and join us!



March 15, 2008  
**GYPSYGRASS**

[www.gypsygrass.ca](http://www.gypsygrass.ca)

Find your self mesmerized at a Gypsygrass concert and be taken on many beautiful emotional rides, through dark and light, real life put to music with a mosaic of styles from easy rock, to fusion, to Celtic, with gypsy flavour and a hint of bluegrass and blues ....a beautiful balance of something salty... then some chocolate!

They call their music Folk Rock if there must be a label. Their shows includes Celtic tunes, cover songs such as Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here, blues man J. J. Cale's Sensitive Kind, some Cajun Jumbalaya!, a 300- year-old song made famous by Paul McCartney, and many more, time allowing.

This band from the Whitby area will amaze you with their own very distinct, soulful sound. The band consists of four main vocalists, acoustic and electric guitars, cello, mandolin, keyboard, bass, percussion, drums.

Welcome Gypsygrass to the Vital Spark!

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www.vitalsparkfolksociety.ca
 Information is subject to change.