

the roots canal

by Maria Dunn



La. la-lah...skiddle-ee-idle-deedle-dum...shuffle, shuffle... crackle...hum-dee-dum... The pleasures of autumn are indeed at hand (and foot). Muse...muse. Leaves, I mean. A myriad of vibrant colours cheerily crunching beneath one's shoes. Brisk winds. Invigorating walks. Stimulated cranial appendages. Combining to arouse instincts pertaining to the wearing of bulky sweaters and frequenting of cozy places (a folk club or two, perhaps). Not to mention avoiding, as diligently as possible, the temptation to become totally immersed in one's studies (for those of you back at school). Indeed, this month's roots music entertainment should help provide valid (or at least enjoyable) justification for the latter.

The South Side Folk club already kicked off their 13th season with a thoroughly entertaining evening of traditional (and not-so-traditional) folk music this past Saturday at the Orange Hall. Local artist, **Jimmy Connor**, warmed up the house with his easy patter and unaccompanied mostly-Scottish songs, followed

by fold guru (and snappy dresser) **Hamish Imlach**. "Stitches" springs to this mind as most adequately capturing the atmosphere of Hamish's performance. Not that we threw any injurious matter at him or her at us (although we were a bit slow at catching the chorus on a few tunes). No, generally, I found myself chuckling and giggling incessantly, if not during a song that was on the more serious side, then immediately before or after it. His material ranged from an elaborate description of the dating etiquette and culture of a Glasgow in days gone by, "Cod Liver Oil and the Orange Juice," to an authentically gasping, coughing, defiant, self-parodying spoker's ballad, to the more poignant "Sonny's Dream," and the almost eerie "Chemical Worker's Song." Vocalist **Muriel Graves**, who had occasionally joined Hamish on stage throughout the evening, inspired us all with the final number, a deeply moving version of "Dead Puppies" (skinny or not, I can't be sure), and sent us on our respectively happy ways, hearts a-brimming with warm and tender feelings.

But don't wallow too long in disappointment if you missed that one. You have plenty of rapidly approaching opportunities to redeem yourselves.

For instance, on Sunday, October 1st, a Picker's Picnic (and I don't think we mean noses here) will take place at Fort Edmonton Park. The afternoon entertainment (2-5 p.m.) will be yours at the meager cost of the regular park admission (unabashed shuffling through the leaves will be allowed at no extra charge). The evening festivities are free and consist of a jam session from 6-12 midnight. Grinners are also welcome.

In the big-mouthed, obnoxious, yet undeniably entertaining vein, **Mojo Nixon and Skid Roper** bring their captivating brand of irreverent American roots music to the Bronx on Monday, October 9th. Tickets are \$11 at the door or \$10 in advance at Sound Connection, South Side Sound, and at the Bronx 10030-102 St. Saturday nights and Monday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m. Be prepared for fine dissertations

on life, the universe, shopping malls, chickens, music censorship, and **Elvis**.

On October 30th, the Ellerslie Folk Music Club organized a folk music workshop at the Ellerslie Rugby Park, 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for entertainers and entertainees alike with the objective of the workshop being to provide budding performers with a friendly and supportive atmosphere in which to blossom, and to give established local musicians, singers and storytellers an opportunity to entertain. Of course, other objectives may occasionally take precedence over the proceedings: fun, good humour, joviality, camaraderie, etc. For more information phone **Gordon King** at 484-4131 or 482-6576 (Bus.).

The Full Moon Folk Club presents their first gig of the season, October 28th at the Windsor Park Community League (11840-87 Ave.) with singer/songwriters **Bev Ross** and **Joan MacIsaac**. Calgary's **Beal Bocht Band** makes their Edmonton debut in the very same cozy confines Saturday, November 11th.

Spirit of the West will perform at the Horizon Stage in Spruce Grove on Sunday, October 29th and, lest ye forget, the South Side Folk Club presents two November shows at the Provincial Museum Theatre: **Connie Kaldor**, on the 10th and **Judy Small** on the 23rd. Tickets at BASS for those three shows.

Finally, keep an ear or two out for a new addition to FM88's "In the Tradition" (8-10ish p.m., Sundays). In mid-October **Andy Donnelly** and **Tom Coxworth** will begin airing a series called "The Crack" (meaning, among other things, "good conversation") during which they will feature a number of interviews with local and not-so-local artists including the likes of **Martin Simpson**, **Capercaille**, and **Manus Lunny**. And, of course, tune into our wave for your daily fix of roots music programming with a variety of charming hosts, 9-11 a.m. weekdays, Tuesdays 6-8 p.m. for "Heartaches by the Number", and Saturday 12-2 p.m. for "Before the Deluge" hosted by **Mary Thurber**.

This month in jazz



by Paul Morriss

Hello and welcome to this month's column. **The Yardbird Suite** is back in action and so am I, so let's get right to business.


Something you may be able to catch if you hurry is **Jay Clayton**. She is performing September 28-30 at the suite, with the **Bill Emes Trio**. Jay has been performing all over the world since the early sixties, and has played and recorded with jazz artists such as **Bobby McFerrin** and **Muhai Richard Abrams**, as well as with shady new-music types such as **John Cage** and **Steve Reich**. She formed, with **Urszula Dudziak**, the group **Vocal Summit**, whose 1985 album *Sorrow Is Not Forever; Love Is* made many a top ten list. She performed here last about one year ago, also with pianist Emes. Glad to see them back.

October 12 and 13 brings us New Orleans pianist and singer **Henry Butler**. His eclectic approach to music is traced back by Butler from having **Alvin Bastiste** as a teacher at university. It was him who introduced Henry to **Charlie Parker** and **Trane** as well as World Music. He plans in future to release albums of jazz, classical and New Orleans music. Let's hope we get a glimpse of some of this material in concert.

Later on in the month, 28-30, we get a rare Canadian performance from the brilliant New York State based **Marilyn Crispell**. She also is a piano player influenced by Coltrane, but also greatly by **Braxton** and **Cecil Taylor**. Do look for her album *Labyrinths*, on **Victo Records**, for an example of her live piano performances: it's truly gripping, masterful work recorded at the **Victoriaville New Music Festival '87**. Other albums were released on labels such as **Leo and FMP**. Nice to see a more "outside" performer in town.

Talking of the Victo Festival, your roving reporter will be attending this vast event this year. Highlight include **The Lounge Lizards**, Cecil Taylor, **ROVA**, and as always **Fred Frith**. Provided I don't get Canonized again I'll let you know how things went.

Much further down the line, the Yardbird is going to begin "jam sessions" on Tuesday nights; and in November we may receive a visit from Toronto saxophone performance artist **John Oswald**. Until next month, keep your reeds wet, and always plant your carrot patch facing North.



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