Canadian Folk Festival Directory

If you know of a festival in your area having significant Canadian folk music content, please help us contact it. In particular, a mailing address so that we can contact the festival directly would be useful. Help us make this directory as complete as possible.

ALBERTA

July 24 to 30, 1995
CALGARY FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL, Calgary, Alta.
Kerry Clarke (Artistic Director), P.O. Box 2897, Sta. M., Calgary, Alta. T2P 3C3
Bus.: (403)-233-0904; Fax: (403)-266-3373

BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 23 to 25, 1995
MACKENZIE SQUARE DANCE JAMBOREE, Mackenzie, BC.
Annual since 1991
Pearl & Kevin Blood, Box 903, Mackenzie, BC. V0J 2CO
Res.: (604)-997-3129
"Club: Blue Diamond Dancers. Friday: Trail In Dance. Saturday: 2:00 p.m. workshop, 7:30 p.m. evening dance and rounds. Sunday: 9:00-11:00 a.m. pancake breakfast and Trail Out Dance. Caller to be announced."

MANITOBA

December 2 to 4, 1994
CHRISTKINDLMARKT, Union Station (CN), Winnipeg, Man.
Annual since 1986
Alexandra Pfeiffer, c/o German-Canadian Congress, 203 90 Garry St., Winnipeg, Man. R3C 4H1
Bus.: (204)-989-8300; Fax: (204)-989-8304
"German Christmas Market showcasing heritage and tradition of German-Canadians, including sale of traditional Christmas/Advent items, displays of cultural/community groups and performances by musical and theatre groups and bands from the German-language community."

February 10 to 19, 1995
FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR, Winnipeg, Man.
Annual since 1970
Debbie Guenette-Lavigne (Communications Officer), 768 Taché Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R2H 2C4
Bus.: (204)-237-7692; Fax: (204)-233-7576
"Come celebrate the joie de vivre of the French-Canadian fur traders at the Festival du Voyageur, Western Canada's largest winter festival. This unique ten-day celebration, themed on the fur trade era, is held each February in St-Boniface, Winnipeg's French Quarter. It's a reflection of Canada's French-Canadian heritage. There's fun, entertainment, traditional cuisine and activities for everyone. Experience the Grand Rendez-Vous on the Boulevard; with non-stop entertainment on large outdoor stages, it's likely the largest winter street party you've ever seen! Other activities include more than 500 magnificent snow sculptures; the Governor's Ball; international sled dog races; 400 shows, ranging from old-time fiddling and jiggling to contemporary rock, featuring performers from across Canada and from Louisiana; family entertainment; arts and crafts exhibits; and historic Fort Gibraltar. Le Festival du Voyageur is your opportunity to experience both past and present."

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

We know that certain wintertime events exist, and assume that they include traditional music, particularly Native music, but don’t have specific dates for them. We advise contacting them to confirm before making plans to attend.

January

SUNRISE FESTIVAL, Inuvik, NWT.
Inuvik Sunrise Festival Committee, Box 1611, Inuvik, NWT. X0E 0T0
(403) 979-2607

March

CABIN FEVER DAYS, Fort Liard, NWT.
Recreation Coordinator, Hamlet of Fort Liard, Ft. Liard NWT. X0G 0A0
(403) 770-4104

BEAVER TAIL JAMBOREE, Fort Simpson, NWT.
(403) 695-3300

WOOD BUFFALO FROLICS, Fort Smith, NWT.
Wood Buffalo Frolics, Town of Fort Smith, Ft. Smith, NWT. X0E 0P0
(403) 872-2014

KAMBA WINTER CARNIVAL, Hay River, NWT.
Shirley Camsell, Hay River Dene Band
(403) 874-6701

LAC LA MARTRE WINTER CARNIVAL, Lac La Martre, NWT.
Jeff Summers, Hamlet Office, Box 71, Lac La Martre, NWT. X0E 1P0
(403) 573-3401

CARIBOU CARNIVAL and TREE OF PEACE ANNUAL TALENT SNOW. Yellowknife, NWT.
The Centrefold

I recently got back in touch with one of my favorite publications, Concertina & Squeezebox: The International Magazine for Free Reed Musicians. Founded by John Townley deep in the 80s, Concertina & Squeezebox is currently edited by Joel Cowan, who has survived moves, fires, and various other unnatural disasters to bring the magazine into its 31st issue, fatter and fuller than ever. Full of neat stuff, like the cover interview with Lou Killen, a reprint of an interview with the late Scan Tester of Sussex (conducted by Rod and Danny Stradling), a continuing series on maintenance and repair, as well as reviews, market place, and some absolutely wonderful photos. They’ve been gathering and issuing cassettes made from home recordings by readers of the magazine for several years; these cassettes, Original Readers’ Tape, Son of Readers’ Tape, Bride of Readers’ Tape and Revenge of Readers’ Tape, are offered at $12.00 ($14.00 airmail, both prices U.S.; Canadian readers can get all four for $40.00 U.S. postpaid). Considering that their readers include such folks and Killen, not to mention Townley and Cowan themselves, Hamish Bayne, and others less known (but often very good and surprisingly original), these cassettes are well worth owning.

My only current beef with Concertina & Squeezebox is that I’ve got to find some way to put together $50.00 to buy the back issues I’ve missed during the last couple of years. [GWL]

A little known group that might be of interest to Society members is the American Banjo Fraternity. Despite the inclusive sound of their moniker, the group is quite specialized: their turf is the nylon or gut strung, finger picked (but not à la Scruggs, and without picks, for sure!) in the so-called “classical” mode. Of late, they’ve branched out a bit, showing some interest in the popular styles of playing that preceded the Golden Era of classical banjo (the late 1800s, though I gather you can still study the instrument in conservatories in England): recent articles and reprints have looked at the minstrel banjo technique, which was the prototypical “frailing” or “clawhammer” style.

I first became aware of the group during the 60s: they were not new when Pete Seeger cited them in his banjo instruction book. A friend of mine wrote a letter to the address Seeger gave, citing his source, and received a blistering response, denigrating Seeger as a Communist, blah blah blah. Not exactly the sort of thing to make a fellow much interested in joining. The current group is much friendlier. I think that’s one reason why I keep my membership up; it’s fun to receive the quarterly 5 Stringer, their publication, even