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## “GREETINGS FROM OUR GUEST EDITORS”

Yes, folks it is finally here - a list of Folk Music Festivals across Canada. A list of Folk Festivals in Canada? Sure, it sounds easy enough, I've got all the phone numbers - piece of cake, right? I never dreamt there were so many answering machines out there. "Leave a message at the sound of the tone, and who knows, we may even get back to you". Now I don't mean to be cynical about answering machines - god knows I couldn't live without mine, but do you ever get the feeling that someone is listening and snickering in the background while you spew out your message as fast as possible?

Back to the story...

compiling this list took a lot of time and energy. It was fun for me personally because I had met some of the festival people I through my travels as a touring musician. Most of the festivals were keen and really appreciated the exposure.

One stumbling block we encountered was the question of what constitutes a folk festival? What does "folk" mean? A good question - and since nobody I knew could give me a straight answer, I went to the Oxford Dictionary. It suggests that "folk" means "people in general". If this were the case we would be listing every gathering of people and music in the entire country. Not a bad idea, but we knew that you wanted this in time for the summer festival season. We had to narrow it down. Our conver-

sations went something like this: "If we list old time fiddling we should list bluegrass. If we list bluegrass then we should list country and western. If we list country and western, we should list country - rock. If we list country - rock, we should list rock and blues. And if we list all of these we should list every summer fair in every town in Canada". Needless to say, you get my point. Taj Mahal once said, "it's called folk music cause folks like it. I ain't never heard of no horse music". We ended up listing festivals which we felt reflected the nature of Folk Festivals today, in all their eclectic glory. But the question still echoes - "What is folk music"? Personally I tend to agree with Mitch Podolak's loose definition: "to express (ones) own feelings and reflect (ones) experience, without the purpose in mind of creating a hit for the parade".

Now that you're more confused than ever I'll leave you to thumb through this list of festivals. I would like to thank Alex Chisholm of the Acoustic Connection in Vancouver, Music '91 in B.C. and to all the festivals who took time out to write an article. Also thanks to Mitch Podolak for his commentary on "The Truth About Folk Festivals".

Have a good summer and see if you can catch each festival. And if you wish to question some of the above comments drop me a line - who knows - I might even get back to you!

*Murray Evans  
Brandon*