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JAMMIN' TIMES

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RESPONSE TO REGGIE'S RAMBLINGS - AUGUST EDITION

By Leanne Doty

Recently it has come to my attention that people are curious about how radio stations go about choosing the songs they play on the air and while I can only write generally about other radio stations I can go through the process we follow at 880 CKLQ. Fans of classic country music are concerned that it is being pushed out by today's "pop – sounding" music that is passing itself off as country music. It has become my understanding that many people believe that radio stations receive cd's and then pick and choose what they play based on their preferences. Radio stations receive new releases from a digital download music system. These are new singles that have been released through record labels as current singles. What I, as Music Director, then have to decide is "is it a good song, well produced, musically appealing, and is it appropriate for our listening audience?" While I agree that country music has become too pop sounding (I prefer the classics like Patsy Cline and Merle Haggard), I also have to take into consideration that there is an ever increasing group of young people listening who prefer the newer music and thus it becomes my job to try to please as many people as possible. On one hand we have the long time listeners who love the older music and have very much helped make CKLQ the popular station that it is. On the other hand the newer music has garnered the attention of younger listeners and has turned a whole new audience onto country music. Ironically, once these younger listeners get hooked on the music they then learn about the classics and become fans of those artists as well. CKLQ is one of very few radio stations in Canada that still plays the classic artists and we try very hard to cater to as many musical tastes as possible. We are also firm believers in supporting independent artists that don't have huge record labels backing them up. And, perhaps even more importantly we love to support local talent whenever we can. In the decision making process we take several things into consideration. The bottom line is all we have to choose from are the singles that are sent to us – basically we are at the mercy of the record labels and since artists like Willie, Merle, Dolly etc are no longer releasing music the selection is narrowed to the pop sounding singles. We are very fortunate at CKLQ to be able to make the music selection independently. Many radio stations are owned by larger parent companies and not only are they sent exactly what they must play without any regard for listening audience or any choice in the decision making, they frequently don't have a live announcer on the air. Many segments of their broadcast day are done by announcers who have voice tracked the show from larger centres. We are very fortunate at CKLQ in that we have total involvement in the music selection and, with the exception of the all night on air shift, we very seldom have voice tracked segments in our broadcast day. Hopefully this has cleared up some questions and misconceptions but if you are still wondering about something I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. It's as simple as giving me a call at CKLQ – 726-8888. My thanks to Westman Jams for giving me this opportunity.

Leanne Doty

Music Director

880 CKLQ



REGGIE'S RAMBLINGS

It's That Time Again

On Nov. 23rd we will be hosting another Westman Jams Christmas Show. Gail has all the folders ready for canvassing and most of them have been distributed to the volunteers for canvassing to our local business community. We still have a few of these folders left. If you can spare some time and would like to get involved, please come forward and offer your support so we can have another successful show.

It is quite a feeling to know, you were a big part of the scholarships we have set up with the International Music Camp. I don't know about you, but what I would have given in my younger years, to have such wonderful musical training at my finger tips such as what the IMC are offering. Who knows? I might have been a big international star(ha ha). To date we have sponsored 21 students. I have had a few members approach me of getting a few groups together to work out some special songs. This is a wonderful idea and I have been trying to get this sort of thing organized since we started Westman Jams. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together. Take my friends, Gateway Express from Winnipeg, for example. Last year they appeared on our Xmas show for the first time and today they are getting quite busy performing at various shows in and around Winnipeg. As a matter of fact, a few of us are going to see them Oct. 17th in Stonewall. Wanna come along? Just let myself or Wayne Morrissey know and we can organize a trip. Should be a good time and you'll hear some great music! I am so proud of them every time I hear them. Through a conversation with Scott Coultres a few weeks ago we are planning to do a Westman Jams CD at his studio shortly after the New Year. We are attempting to have just original songs on this CD or at the very least, songs written by people we know personally. I have permission to do some that have been written by my friends from around the Belleville/Kingston area for those folks who haven't written their own. I have all the forms necessary to register your songs with the Songwriters Assoc. of Canada for anyone that wants some protection before we release any of these. I am currently in a position to make rough copies for the participants, so we can all work on our various parts before we get to the studio. This will involve coming to my home so we can record a CD to help arrange and for distribution to the musicians you want to help you. This way each person can take their copy home and work on the various parts. This will be a wonderful keepsake and historical record for our older years. So....C'mon down and get involved in Westman Jams! It's fun!!

Remember!..No matter where you are....There you go

Reg

MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH - AL SWAYZE

Al hails from Wheatland Mb. He started playing guitar in 1951 and says his inspiration came from Dad who played the fiddle. He is one of seven children and the only one who took up music. He is also the proud owner of his Dad's 278 year old fiddle.

Al spent ten years in the service travelling all over the world and ended up being posted to Rivers when the military base still existed there. He then spent seven years in Winnipeg working as a chef in the Mall Hotel and also played in a group called THE BLUEGRASS FOUR. His wife played bass and guitar and was lead vocalist.

In 1970 he moved to Kenora, Ontario where he worked as an Executive Chef for 13½ years after which he became the assistant manager of a halfway house for 8 years and then moved on to counsel young offenders at the Northern Youth Centre.



In the mid nineties Al took plumbing and electrical courses and worked as a building Superintendent.

In 1997 Al lost his wife to cancer and subsequently moved to Rivers where his family was living

Today Al spends his time with his new love Betty and is a member of Westman Jams and also MOBS, (Manitoba Olde Tyme & Bluegrass Society), and we love his Bluegrass style of music.

Silent Chords



DENNIS MCKENZIE: Beloved son of Bert and Margaret McKenzie passed away on June 14, 2008 accidently at the age of 56 years at Belcourt, ND. USA. Dennis was an avid follower of Westman Jams and could always be seen at the ANAF Clubrooms each time we played there. His presence is missed. The September 14, 2008 Jam was dedicated to his memory. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.



KELVIN (KELLY) WHITTINGHAM: beloved father of our own Harold, (JR Jammer), Whittingham, passed away at the Brandon Regional Health Centre on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at the age of 71 years. Kelly was laid to rest on Saturday, September 27, 2008 in the Brandon Cemetery surrounded by his loving family and friends. Donations in memory of Kelly may be made to the Brandon Firefighters Charity Fund, 637 Princess Avenue, Brandon, MB R7A 0P2, Attention: Kevin Groff. Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends JR, Christine and family at this time.

WELCOME NEW MUSICIAN

A big Westman Jams welcome to Tonia Schol who made her first appearance at the jam in Brandon on Sept. 14, 2008. Tonia was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and has sang all her life. She says she used to sing songs in English, i.e. "Cry" by Johnny Ray, even though she didn't understand the language.

Tonia's musical inspiration came from Patsy Cline and Bette Midlar. In her first operetta she sang "Rosemarie."

Tonia sings at jam sessions in Texas during the winter months and she also sings karaoke.



Oct. 3 - Judy Foster Oct. 9 - Jim Terry Oct. 16 - Bill Thompson
 Oct. 20 - Carl Jackson Oct. 29 - Jenine Morrissey
 Oct. 30 - Margaret Haggerty Oct. 30 - Dave McLelland
 Oct. 31 - Diana McCallum

Want your birthday added?
 Call or email Wayne
wayne@westmanjams.ca

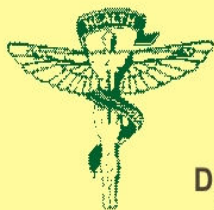
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DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

by Ken Harman

Dog Days Of Summer - defined in the dictionary as “*A period of time between July and September described as hot and sultry with low activity.*”

WELL I DON'T THINK SO -- Not when it comes to the music scene in Manitoba as it is connected with Westman Jammers and company. This writer has yet to experience a summer like this one has been.

Not counting the spring jams and special events, (like Pasture Pickin' and Grand Valley), there has been almost non-stop opportunity to jam and play at many diverse locations and events.

From July 1st celebrations, Pickin' in the Park, Sprucewoods Rodeo, playing at Seniors homes, Austin Thresherman's Reunion, Hartney Country gospel concert, Cripple Creek bluegrass and gospel, the week long caravan to Ness Creek, Spy Hill jam and finally the Shady Oaks bluegrass gathering. I know there were others but I couldn't get up the energy to get to them all.

You just can't hold good country/bluegrass/gospel musicians down when they hear of a chance to play somewhere. Two of us were asked to play a few tunes at the River Park in Birtle on July 1st. I told a few pickers about it and we ended up jamming with about fifteen pickers for five hours. What a great time we had. I know that many of you have stories to match that you will tell with a fond smile with the memory of it.

Some of the great memories of this past summer that I have are:

- Pickin' with Westman Jammers at the Sprucewoods Rodeo.
- Two days playing backup with my Bluegrass buddies at Austin.
- Caravan to Ness Creek while travelling for seven days with good friends and buddies from around Manitoba.

As I was thinking back on these good times I was reminded that music is **only a part** of the total experience. We have been so blessed to have such beautiful parks and outdoor venues to share with our friends and neighbours while pursuing our hobby and love of music. Even with the high cost of travel it is such a joy to meet with like minded folks in these settings to enjoy their company in music and song and to see the happiness such events produce.

Now before you might think that I'm always serene and happy I must tell you that occasionally I get a little grumpy, (ask Miss Joy), but part of my salvation to these rare times is my gratitude at being accepted and taking part in the events that you all put on and make ALL feel welcome. That is the most important ingredient of all -- EVERYONE is welcome to enjoy our gatherings and feel that they can contribute regardless of talent or ability.

I firmly believe that the success of Westman Jams can be attributed to that very fact. Your founders began with that message and it strongly continues today. My hope is that everyone will continue to contribute to the spirit of community that is engendered in this attitude and mission statement.

Let's each of us make a commitment to invite a newcomer to join us in these events -- it's worth it when you see the joy as they gradually learn that they are accepted and welcome to participate

God Bless and keep on Pickin' N Grinnin'

Ken

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MUSIC

Westman Jams ANAF Jam

Army Navy & Airforce Hall

31-14th Street

Brandon Mb.

Sunday, October 12, 2008

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Supper to follow

Transcona Legion Jam

117 Regent Avenue, E.

Winnipeg, MB

October 10, 2008 -7:00 p.m.

Featuring: **Gary & Lynda.**

Jamming from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., band from 9:00 - 10:00 p.m., more jamming following band. Admission FREE



Slim Chance Concert

Transcona Memorial United Church

209 Yale Avenue West

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Friday, October 17, 2008 - 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available from Bob Whittaker - 222.2884 & Terry Cousins - 222-3624 or 793-5590. Refreshments will be served.



Gateway Express in Concert

South Interlake 55 Plus "A Taste of Bluegrass" Dinner & Concert

The Lions Community Centre,

5 Keith Cosens Drive,

Stonewall, Manitoba.

Friday, October 17, 2008

Doors will open at 6:00; Dinner at 6:30 with the concert to follow. There will also be a variety auction, etc.

Tickets are \$12.50 and are available September 1st by calling the 55 Plus office, 1-204-467-2582. Tickets will be limited, so get your tickets early.



Birdtail Valley Fall Jam

Birtle Community Hall

Sunday, October 19, 2008

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of traditional music - bluegrass - country - gospel and old time. Break out your instruments, singing voice or just have a good time setting & listening. Everyone welcome. Great sound system and acoustics. Concession available (donations accepted)

Contact:

Ken Harman - 204-842-3853 or

Dwight Stewart - 204. 842-5212 or

Marj Barteaux - 204 - 842-3779

Laurie Lewis &

The Right Hands Concert

Tuesday October 21, 2008

The Park Theatre & Cafe

698 Osborne Street

Winnipeg, MB. Canada

Phone : 478-7275

Doors open at 7:30 and the concert starts at 8:00.

Tickets are \$20.00 and are available September 1st from:

MOBS Executive Members,

The Park Theatre and Café, Long & McQuade, Quest Musique, Winnipeg Folk Festival Store, Candor Books & Music,

On line at www.ticketworkshop.com, Shavey Gladstone 353-2228 or e-mail jing@skyweb.ca



Westman Jams Sprucewoods Jam

Sprucewoods Community Hall,

5 Woods Avenue

Sprucewoods, Mb. (Next to CFB Shilo)

Sunday October 26, 2008

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.