

## Joël Fafard



Joël Fafard is that rare breed of instrumentalist: the kind whose appeal reaches far beyond the realm of serious guitar enthusiasts. The gifted slide fingerstyle player writes stirring, melodic compositions that paint pictures as vivid as any song with words. He introduces them on-stage with hilarious commentary delivered in a "hillbilly farm-boy" stage persona that quickly wins his audience over. And when he sinks his chops into a number like "Face Down in the Rhubarb," well, let's just say the serious guitar enthusiasts aren't disappointed either.

Joël will be introducing his new repertoire of Appalachian tunes at the 2007 Northern Lights Festival.

Fafard's recent CD ...and another thing... is his second collection of moving and atmospheric instrumentals that draw on roots, blues, country, bluegrass and even Celtic inspiration. Among the highlights is the lovely, expansive "Mesquite Morning," the moody, Celtic-tinged "Megan and the Wascana Cyclone" and the instantly hummable title track. Many of Fafard's tunes have cryptic titles that figure heavily into his live show. Not content to simply show off his wizardry, Fafard proves himself the consummate entertainer, setting up the pieces with short stories that indicate the source of the title. "It's not that men aren't romantic," mutters Fafard, playing something of a redneck caricature of himself, "it's just that we are romantic about all the wrong things. ...like hockey...and trucks...and barbeque." A few songs later, he intros "Mesquite Morning" by concluding that, seeing as he's such a romantic guy, it stands to reason that he'd write a love song to "a big hunk of red meat."

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



The logo for the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival 2007. It features a stylized green graphic of a musical staff with notes and a treble clef at the top. Below this, the text "NORTHERN LIGHTS BLUEGRASS & OLD TYME MUSIC FESTIVAL" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. "NORTHERN LIGHTS" and "BLUEGRASS" are in green, while "& OLD TYME MUSIC" and "FESTIVAL" are in brown. The year "2007" is written in a large, brown, serif font at the bottom.

## The Rawling Brothers



Doug and Bruce Rawling have been playing music since their childhood, when they travelled and sang with their family. Since then they have been involved in several musical ventures – sometimes together, sometimes apart – and during that time have sold over 50,000 albums. They have enjoyed radio air play in Canada, United States and Europe., and their album “Hand Me Downs, Volume 1” was the 2004 Vibe Award winner for the best Country Bluegrass Album in Canada. “Back in the 80’s, when we had more hair, we actually had one of our songs go to number two on a New York radio station”, recalls Doug. “ We were getting quite a bit of U.S. air play, and my sister who was living in Florida at the time could hear her brothers singing on the radio, so that was pretty cool.”

Being singer-songwriters, the Rawling Brothers are often asked to describe their sound, a question they don’t find real easy to answer. “Our music is a blend of a lot of different styles”, says Bruce, the younger of the two brothers. “We’ve been influenced by old time country, gospel music, bluegrass, folk and even rock music. We’ve come up the phrase ‘Rocky Mountain Country’ and we think that works pretty good for describing our sound”. Whatever you call it, their grassroots, close to the earth sound, featuring close harmonies and acoustic instruments, seems to strike a chord with a lot of people. They’ve built up a loyal fan base through the Prairie Provinces and the Midwestern states. The Rawlings share a deep love of music and feel blessed by God to be able to do what they love to do.

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



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## The Vissia Sisters



Alexandra, Aleisha and Andrea, the “Vissia Sisters”, are roots artists, combining a unique blend of country, bluegrass, and folk music with rock influences. From their first performances standing on the living room coffee table to their recent appearances, the Vissia Sisters bring a youthful exuberance to their performances. These multi-faceted musicians’ true passion lies in writing and performing their own material. Their use of skillfully crafted harmony vocals and acoustic instrumentation create a distinctive sound that exemplifies a mature musical ability.

The Vissia Sisters began performing together in the fall of 2000. Since then they have graced stages in Japan, the 2005 CCMA Gospel Showcase, Tennessee, Merritt Mountain Music Festival, Big Valley Jamboree and many theaters across Canada.

With their 2005, sophomore EP, "Bend in the Road," the Vissia Sisters offer a unique tribute to their country, western and bluegrass roots. Their talent and musical experience is well beyond their years, showing an impressive handle on song craft and the musical ability to both engage and entertain. Impressive solo vocals are intermixed with spine-tingling three-part harmonies solidifying the Vissia Sisters as one of Canada’s premiere young talents.

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

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## Back Porch Swing



Hailing from Edmonton, Canada, Back Porch Swing is a 4 piece acoustic band that blends a nice mix of western swing, jazz, folk and bluegrass to bring you their very own "Cowjazz". Their funny lyrics, hot picking, sweet harmonies and versatility make you want to swing on their back porch. Back Porch Swing is Jim Malmberg vocals, mandolin, and guitar; Penny Malmberg vocals, guitar, and mandolin; Cam Neufeld violin; and Kevin Jacobson bass.

String band music in all its forms inspires this band of talented musicians. They have been playing together since 2003, showcasing their songwriting amid a collection of vintage tunes. Their second CD, "Riding" was released in 2005 and has been well received at clubs and festivals. Performing as a band or a duo has taken Back Porch Swing west to Victoria, B.C., east to Sherbrooke, Quebec, north to Dawson Creek, B.C., and south to Burningman at Black Rock City, NV. They are currently being played on CKUA, CJSR and Whole Wheat Radio in Alaska.

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

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## Knee Deep



While Knee Deep may be a fairly “new” bluegrass band on the Saskatchewan scene, it’s very hard to think of them as new. Six very experienced musicians have come together to form this dynamic group and they are quickly turning heads. Knee Deep is a truly unique band, blending urban with rural and old with new.

The band’s founder, and lead singer, Gord Vaadeland, cut his bluegrass teeth as the front man of the popular band, The Baler Strings. On mandolin for this show is Darryl Amundson, a regular member of the Upstream trio. Acclaimed banjoist, Michael Corcoran has played in groups across Canada and now calls Saskatoon home. Sheila Vaadeland brings powerful vocals and driving rhythm guitar to the mix, and veteran fiddle champion, Don Pfeiffer keeps the tunes flowing with hot licks and brilliant solos. Experienced bassist Tom Kennedy rounds out the rhythm section.

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## Lone Tree Road with JJ Guy



Lone Tree Road are a high energy feel-good bluegrass group. Each of the members are experienced, road-tested musicians who all have a passion for bluegrass and old-time music.

JJ Guy is a talented fiddler from small town Saskatchewan, who has played all over western Canada with some of the biggest names in the fiddle and acoustic world. His upbeat attitude, fun stage presence, and great teaching abilities keeps him much in demand at festivals, dances and fiddle camps. His fiddle recordings can be heard on various radio stations from Ontario to BC.

Randy Chaykowski has traveled coast-to-coast numerous times displaying his vocal and guitar abilities with the Vic Mullen show. His strong and unique vocals are often featured on television around western Saskatchewan. Randy is also well known for his late night jamming abilities!

Hank Ukrainetz has played bass and double bass with numerous groups all across Canada. His resumé includes playing with the Lloyd Hanson band, Dyky brothers, playing the main stage at Craven Big Valley Jamboree, opening for Conway Twitty, and Michelle Wright, and Hank has also worked as a studio musician.

Ken Goodman is an accomplished musician on several instruments, including 5 string banjo, guitar, piano and fiddle he has toured with Blake Emmuns, the Ozark Mountain Dare Devils, as well as Mickey and Bunny. Ken has also preformed numerous times at Dauphin Country Fest.

Darryl Amundson is a highly sought after mandolin player and singer. He's played with Upstream, Knee Deep, as well as many others.



## **Bannock Country**



This popular Métis band from Debden, Saskatchewan has quite a following in Western Canada. The band's leader is Bruce Isbister, who plays fiddle, lead guitar and background vocals. He is joined by Ralph Arcand (yes, he is John's brother) on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, and Irvin "Chaps" Little on bass.

Bannock Country has been the feature band at the John Arcand Fiddlefest Saturday Evening Dance since 1999 and the group has made appearances at Back to Batoche Days and many other events. They provide old time tunes that will get the audience up dancing like there was a horsehair floor at the festival site!

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## Friends of Old Time Music



One hot Old Time band! Featuring John Murray (fiddle, vocals), Bonnie Logan (banjo, vocals), Joys Dancer (banjo, accordion, vocals), Milo Drtina (guitar, vocals, kazoo, harmonica), and Mona Goodwin (banjo, fiddle, washboard, vocals). The Friends currently reside in Saskatchewan, and have played numerous venues from the Ness Creek Festival to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and even a Bluegrass and Country Festival in Vicenza, Italy.

Prior to radios and recordings, people made their own music. A good fiddler was highly respected and prized in the community. Old-time music was dance music, but it was also parlour music and ballads. It was never concert music, and usually participatory. Each region, even each county, had unique styles, and until the development of recordings and radio, the tunes and songs were passed by oral tradition. With the advent of radio, records, and the music industry, the diversity began to decline and fewer and fewer people learned to play this music. The music was preserved only in pockets and by a few individuals and families. Friends of Old Time Music is part of that preservation, playing a wide variety of tunes including music from the Skillet Lickers and Uncle Dave Macon, and they'll continue to do their part to keep this genre alive for years to come.



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## Irvin Amundson



Born, raised and still residing in Park Valley, SK, Irvin is well known for his easy, relaxed way of delivering great old gospel, bluegrass and cowboy songs. One of the original members of the Baler Strings, Irvin receives requests for some of his work with the group to this day. Irvin will be leading the Sunday Morning Bluegrass Gospel portion of the festival in 2007, in addition to treating us to some great old time singing on Saturday. One listen to this unforgettable golden voice and you will be an instant fan.

The logo features a stylized green graphic of a musical staff with notes, resembling a mountain range. Below this, the text reads:

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