

# Harrison Festival Society Newsletter - Jan. 2010



## Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings from the Board of Directors and staff of the Harrison Festival Society. We hope you had a joyous Christmas and are looking forward to a great New Year. The Society is entering 2010 with high hopes and lots of plans. As you will see in this newsletter, we have a number of shows planned for our Season of Performing Arts, and work is under way for this summer's 32<sup>nd</sup> Harrison Festival of the Arts.

**Barney Bentall  
Tom Taylor  
& Shari Ulrich  
- Jan. 23**

## Society News

2009 was another good year for the Festival Society. The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Festival of the Arts was a great party; thanks to everyone who joined us for the fun. Despite the uncertain economic times we were able to finish the year in the black – just barely but in the black none the less.

Speaking of finances, 2010 is going to be a challenging year. The Provincial government has announced plans to cut Arts funding drastically over the next two years and this combined with the uncertainty in Gaming Branch funding, will test our resources. Despite the doom and gloom we are confident that with all our great Festival supporters, we will continue the 32 year tradition of the Harrison Festival.

On a more positive note, we just finished a great fall. All four shows featured great performances and very good audiences.

One other bit of good news that we are excited about; plans are underway for a significant renovation of the Memorial Hall. A lot of the work will be behind the scenes, structural upgrading but heating/cooling will also be addressed. The plan is to begin work the third week in September, 2010 and be finished by the end of the year. This does mean we will not be able to do shows in the Hall but we are looking for other ways to do some events next fall.

## 2010 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

This is the official launch of our 2010 Family Membership campaign. The 2010 membership brochure is included with this mailout. We hope you seriously consider supporting this unique cultural organization by joining the Family. If you are able, an additional tax deductible donation would be a big help.

A reminder that all 2009 Family Members are welcome at the Festival Society's Annual General Meeting, **Thursday, January 28, 2009** at 4:30pm at the Festival Society office in Harrison.

## 2009 FAMILY MEMBER DRAW

We are pleased to announce that Bev and Ken Newton of Chilliwack are the winners of the 2009 Family Member draw. They win a pair of tickets to all Festival Society events in 2010 and one pass to the summer Festival. Thank you to everyone who joined the Family, your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

## Season of Performing Arts

All Concerts - Harrison Memorial Hall

### BTU: BARNEY BENTALL, TOM TAYLOR & SHARI ULRICH

Saturday, Jan. 23 • 8:00pm

Barney Bentall moved to Vancouver at age 21 with dreams of rock and roll stardom, and eventually got a record deal with CBS (now Sony) in 1987. Hit records, radio play and major touring followed, but frustration with the business of music caused Bentall to step away and he and his family bought a cattle ranch in 1997. Bentall states "I only wrote songs when they wouldn't leave me alone, and I knew that when the time seemed right I would record again". His latest album "Gift Horse", was partly produced in Vancouver by band-mate John Ellis and partly in Toronto with Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo.

California native Shari Ulrich has lived in BC since the early 1970s. She has released 17 albums as a solo artist and as part of various groups – which have garnered her 2 Juno Awards, several award nominations, and an induction into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Ulrich first hit the stage with the infamous Pied Pumkin String Ensemble. She then gained notoriety as part of Valdy's Hometown Band. In 1989 she teamed up with Bill Henderson and Roy Forbes for the BC Supergroup UHF.

Tom Taylor is best known as a founding member of Vancouver band "She Stole My Beer", who have tour throughout North America and Europe. Taylor's first solo album was produced by Steve Dawson in 2005, and saw good sales in Canada as well as the Netherlands, Belgium and Korea. Taylor has just recorded his second album with Dawson.





## Vishten

**Saturday, Feb. 13 • 8:00pm**

From PEI's Acadian community, Vishten returns to Harrison for a full length concert after a wonderful Beach Stage show this past summer. Vishten's music is a hardy mix of the French, Irish and Scottish styles of Eastern Canada, with fiery fiddling and powerful step dancing taking front and center. Their stage show re-creates the joy and energy of the "kitchen party" and reflect a special joie de vivre unique to the Acadian culture, with flying fingers, tapping feet, and an unabashed sense of celebration.



## The Navigators

**Friday, Feb. 26 • 8:00pm**

Newfoundland's own Navigators are coming to Harrison with their brand of trad and roots music. The Navigators have played hundreds of shows and festivals, and have been on CBC TV and CTV as well as several radio appearances.

Their debut album "Dance and Sing", which was released in 2002 helped the band win the MIANL Award for Roots/Traditional Group of the Year. With original songs, accapella, instrumentals, ballads and shanties the band has created their own sound that works at festivals, auditoriums or the local pub. The band is guaranteed to both give and have a good time.



## THE MIGHTY POPO TRIO

**Friday, April 9, 8:00pm**

Winner of a Juno Award in 2004, Popo was one of the few chosen for the DVD of his highlight performance at the Canadian edition of Sir Bob Geldof's international Live 8 concerts.

You could say that the Mighty Popo is a Rwandan/Burundian refugee/survivor whose music is steeped in African tradition, but you'd hardly be getting at the whole story of one of Canada's greatest rising stars. You'd hardly be able to account for his effortless musicality as a member of the 2004 Juno winning African Guitar Summit, the kudos received for his genre-busting solo work, his performance for Live 8 or his brilliant return to New Orleans for CBC's benefit concert broadcast live across Canada.



## FATHEAD

**Friday, April 30 • 8:00pm**

Winners of two Juno Awards and numerous Maple Blues Awards, Fathead returns to Harrison for the first time in over 10 years. It's been a long steady climb since Fathead's debut CD in 1995, and the band has been tearing it up on the festival circuit ever since – winning over fans – making Fathead one of the country's top roots acts.

Signed to the world renowned Electro-Fi Records, their latest release "Building Full of Blues" garnered them a second coveted Juno Award in 2008. Fat-head has performed on main stages across the continent at high profile events such as the Harvest Jazz & Blues Festival, the Montreal International Jazz Fest and the Toronto International Beaches Jazz Fest. They have performed in Washington, DC for the Canadian Embassy, at Virginia's famed Birchmere Theatre, as well as opening for Blues icon *B.B. King* at Massey Hall in Toronto.



## JOHN MANN

**Saturday, May 15 • 8:00pm**

John Mann, a 25 year veteran of the Vancouver music scene, is best known as front man and songwriter for Spirit of the West and as an actor on CBC's *Intelligence*, as CSIS Director Mallaby.

After 11 albums and countless tours of the UK, Europe and North America with Spirit of the West, Mann returned to his stripped down roots. He created a solo project called Mister Mann and released *December Looms* late in 2007. One critic stated the strength of the album is "John, a guitar and his trademark gravelly voice perfectly suited to the songs about his Port Town: Vancouver".

## BUDS 'n BLOOM PLANT & GARDEN SALE

**Saturday, May 22 • Agassiz Agricultural Pavilion**

*Everything for the Avid Gardener!*

**Free Admission:** A wide range of vendors - annuals, perennials, garden arts & crafts, services and more! Silent Auction, Concession & Raffle.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Harrison Festival

Plans are underway for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Harrison Festival of the Arts, from July 10 to 18, 2010. There are some exciting possibilities and a few bands have already been confirmed for 2010.

Mr. **David Lindley** is finally playing Harrison. Best known for work with Jackson Browne, Bob Dylan, Emily Lou Harris and a host of others, Lindley also recorded a 'take no prisoners!' version of "Mercury Blues" that was a big hit in the 1980s.



Also confirmed:  
Returning to Harrison, **H'sao**, originally from Chad. From Spain, **El Puchero del Horteleno** are a big band of flamenco-rockers. From Scotland, **The Peatbog Faeries**

bring a modern attitude to traditional Celtic music. Legendary US performer **Dan Hicks and his Hot Licks** perform roots music. Canada's own master of the harmonica, **Carlos del Junco** returns. Others include **Annabelle Chvostek** (ex-Wailin Jenny), **Annie Lou** (Yukon Supergroup) and **Bette & Wallet** (Quebec traditional) and many more!



## Ticket & Contact Info

Tickets are available at the Harrison Festival office at (604)796-3664 with mc, amex or visa, or at the Agassiz Shoppers Drugmart 3 weeks prior to each show. Contact the Harrison Festival Society at:

phone: (604) 796-3664 • fax: (604) 796-3694  
e-mail: [info@harrisonfestival.com](mailto:info@harrisonfestival.com)  
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Best Regards, Phyllis, Ed & Kev