

March 2021

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the *Folk Roots Radio* newsletter. I hope you are all keeping safe and well during these strange times. It's certainly been quite the year. Beyond the tragic loss of life and severe illness, many have lost jobs and income, and education for children and students (and life in general) has been severely disrupted. I know we're all thankful for the essential workers who have kept us safe and everything ticking over during the lockdowns. Now that vaccination is starting up, we can look forward to putting this all in the rear-view mirror.

Our collective mental health has also been severely challenged. I've certainly had my moments over the past year. That's part of the reason that I have decided to focus on my own mental health in 2021. That has meant much less time spent on social media and more on personal development and spiritual practice.

Fortunately, I also have my radio to focus on. Since the start of the year I've been able to put out <u>my favourite</u> <u>albums of 2020</u>, and create special features for <u>International Women's Day</u> and the <u>Canadian Live Music</u> <u>Association's #ForTheLoveOfLIVE</u> campaign to raise awareness about how the live music scene has been impacted by the pandemic.

I've also been able to do more of what I love to do - chat to artists about their music. In the past few weeks I've had in-depth conversations with Mallory and Scott from <u>The Rough & Tumble</u>, <u>Angie Nussey</u>, <u>Sue Smith</u> and <u>Justin</u> <u>Rutledge</u> (follow the links to check them out). We have more great in-depth interviews on the way, so please stay tuned.

I do want to put a special shout out for Guelph singer-songwriter Sue Smith & the Potion Kings who will be playing a very special FREE live-streamed show direct from the <u>River Run Centre</u> in Guelph ON on Friday **March 26** at 8 p.m. EST in support of their utterly fantastic new album "Tonight We Sail". Great songs, fabulous musicianship - *Tonight We Sail* is destined to be one of my favourite albums of 2021! This show from the River Run will be brilliant.

If you'd like to register for the livestream, all you need to do is sign up for the River Run Centre Spotlight newsletter. You don't need to be a Guelph resident or even live anywhere near to do that. <u>CLICK THIS LINK TO</u> <u>REGISTER</u>. They'll send you the livestream link on the day of the show.

That's it. That's all I have time for. Thanks to all the artists who share their music with me, and a special thank you to you for listening. I have lots of great music and interviews to bring you on future episodes.

And please remember... If you enjoy the music we play on Folk Roots Radio and want to support the artists – many of whom aren't able to play live at the moment because of the Covid-19 pandemic, don't just stream their music - that earns them much less than a penny per play. Instead, buy their music - and really make a difference to their income. They'll love you for it!

Stay safe and well everyone!

Jan Hall

Folk Roots Radio is a labour of love - a full time hobby. If you like what we do, please spread the word.