

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

by Nicole Lalonde, Metchosin Review

On Sunday, March 28, I travelled the world "without borders" with forty or so Metchosinites and we didn't have to leave the Community House. We were transported to another time and place with the sounds of Brad Prevedoros, Niel Golden and Greg Joy. From the shores of Ireland, through England, south to Spain and east to India, it was a two hour musical journey steeped in tradition and rich in discoveries. Collectively, these three musicians play an assortment of over ten different instruments, which speaks of their versatility and talent. From the ancient hammered dulcimer, the exotic tabla, the lively and exhilarating guitar, the melodious flute, to the new and elusive hang; it was delightful to be allowed to hear, see and hold some of these rare instruments.

The first half of the concert was an exploration into the solo and collaborative careers of these three accomplished musicians. Victoria born Greg Joy reminds us that virtuosity is not limited to one instrument. The guitar, flute and hammered dulcimer are but a few of this artist's collection and it is evident that Celtic folk is at the root of his inspiration. Greg is non-assuming yet incredibly generous, lending his years of experience and talent to start off the concert with two traditional Irish pieces; Carolan's Welcome and Morrison's Jig.

BC guitarist Brad Prevedoros has released ten international recordings, has been nominated for a Western Canadian music award and has won Vancouver Island's Monday Magazine Performer's award. His repertoire includes Classical, Jazz, Pop, Celtic, Folk and Latin. His guitar playing can be described as being "exuberant and innovative". It was hard to resist the urge to get up and dance while listening to his spirited and Latin-infused piece entitled "Echoes"

Toronto born Niel Golden is a percussionist specializing in the hand drums called tablas. In 1972 he began his life long study of the tabla. He now lives in Victoria and is actively involved in the music scene. Niel is a skillful performer, equally at ease playing Indian classical music, African, Roots, Blues, and other world music styles. He has worked with many artists, orchestras, ensembles, choirs and trios. He has released many of his own recordings and collaborated on many others, which have earned him nominations for three Juno awards and two Western Canadian Music awards.

In his piece entitled "Celticle" Niel introduced us to the hang (pronounced hung) a recently invented instrument from Switzerland. Fellow musician and Metchosinite David Kaetz gifted Niel with his first hang in 2004 and the popularity of this instrument is such that it has now become extremely difficult to obtain one. The hang is often described as a drum. However, the makers of this flying saucer like instrument prefer to regard it as a "complex holistic entity, likened more to a sound sculpture than a typical drum".

The second half of the afternoon was a visit into the heart of each musician. A rare glimpse into what has fueled their creative juices or fashioned their musical journey; such as the tradition and display of skill necessary to perform a one hour tabla solo, or being moved by the Gypsies of El Albaicin in Spain. We were given a brief but oh so rich and flavourful taste of what is to come from this trio.

The independent style and tradition from which each musician draws his inspiration contributed to incredible depth and texture. No one musician stole the show, a true collaboration of kindred spirits and musicianship. It was a concert that rekindled in me the experience of travelling; inviting me to be meditative and serene one minute, effervescent and adventurous the next. I can only thank the organizers and these veteran musicians for the luxury of a trip away from home and back in one short afternoon. It was voted unanimously that this trio would be invited back to Metchosin in the near future.