

Music Notes for January 2022

Happy New Year!!!!

Hello everyone, As I sit here and reflect upon what to write in this months column and look back to the past two years I become hopeful that this year will be one of positive change and that we will finally be able to get a handle on the whole Covid-19 pandemic and return to some sense of normalcy.

It has been a trying time for those of us who are in the music business, it seems that everytime I opened my social media page someone was cancelling an engagement somewhere and I suspect New Years Eve events were very small gatherings, if there were any at all.

Last year wasn't a total bust as there was a fair amount of music played by some of our members but it was far from what I would call normal. Many festivals and bus tours were cancelled and local concerts and events were downsized to accommodate seating capacity and gathering restrictions.

Some of the things that were a go for me were the Stewiacke River Music festival and the summer series of shows at several community stages through out southern N.B.

Ivan and Vivian Hicks were active as well as Gary and Tammy Morris and Steve Lyons, Al Inch and I were also involved in several concerts together, as was Claudette Norman.

Hall of Famer Ted Daigle sent me a download of a Christmas song he wanted folks to hear and while it was too late for the December column I include the link now to "The Gift" so you can listen and enjoy it too! Well done Ted!



- The Gift by Ted Daigle (also attached to email)

As far as I know Ivan and Vivian Hicks' "Down Home Christmas" video for 2021 is still available and can be accessed at www.downhomefiddle.com this is a great video and would make a most excellent addition to your music library!

In Memorium:

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news of the passing of Hall of Fame member Fiddlin' Pat Boulanger in early December. I had the great pleasure of performing with Pat on many occasions as a member of the groups the Saint John Old Time Fiddlers and Antique Ernie and the Hardwood Ramblers. Pat was quick with a grin and an encouraging 'well done!'. Pat was an excellent fiddler combining Maritime and Quebecois styles to create his unique and smooth fiddling style and will be missed by all of us. His biography is available at the Hall of Fame website where you can see his many accomplishments and honours.

We will soon be gathering for our board meeting and selection process for the induction ceremonies and gala, which will be hosted by Gary and Tammy Morris, in Sussex on October 15, 2022. The process and nominating information is also located at the Hall of Fame website and the criteria for nominating can be found there if you wish to nominate someone for future induction ceremonies.

Hall member Brenda Best will be busy putting together our quarterly newsletter so if you have any relevant information you wish to share with her you can send it to her or myself and I will send it off to her so she can add it to the newsletter. Information such as awards, honours, milestones and other items of interest to our membership are great content so don't be shy in reaching out to us! The more interactive we are the stronger and more long-lasting the Hall of Fame and our musical community becomes!

In closing I would like to remind everyone of the importance of what we have accomplished and what we wish to accomplish in the future so please continue to support our New Brunswick Country Music Hall Of Fame. We need to move it forward into the future in order to continue to honour our past.

I will see you all in February with more news and goings on, till then stay safe and have a happy and prosperous new year!!

Reg Gallant
NBCMHF (2009)