

From the Editors

At some time or another most of us have heard the complaint that CSTM is too narrow in its focus, and that our working definition of folk music is insufficiently eclectic. Well, to be sure we love the traditional songs and instrumental music of France, Britain and Ireland, and of those Canadian communities from Newfoundland to British Columbia whose musical traditions are still rooted in the Old World. But as citizens of a great multi-cultural nation, we are equally alive to the musics of Canadians with other ethnic roots. In our last issue we featured Torontonians Kiran Ahluwalia and her interpretation of the ghazals and folksongs of northern India. In this issue we turn from Asia to Africa, and explore the traditional music of the Bura people of Nigeria, thanks to a fascinating submission by Newfoundland folklorist Zainab Jerrett. The photograph on the front cover is of Bura musician Saraya Mwarinkir D. Waziri.

Singer-songwriters vary immensely in their degree of debt to traditional music, but many of the best are proud to acknowledge their roots and to admit that they feel most comfortable working in the style with which they grew up. Ontario singer-songwriter Rick Fielding was an excellent example, and we are pleased to print what was probably the last extended interview that Rick gave before his recent untimely death from cancer. Former *CFM* editor Lorne Brown conducted the interview, and he also reviews Rick's last recording, the CD *Acoustic Workshop*. The photograph on the back cover is of Rick Fielding.

This issue also includes two book reviews and the usual plethora of CD reviews, as well as John Leeder's extensive guide to a summer's worth of folk festivals throughout Canada. There are listings for every province and territory, so you have no excuse for not indulging in a weekend or two of live music in the great Canadian outdoors sometime between May and October. And if you do attend a complete festival this summer, why not send us a review of the event? Incidentally, because of the size of the festival guide, we have had to carry over to 38.2 some items originally planned for this issue. In the summer issue you can expect a feature on one of Canada's greatest folksong collectors, Helen Creighton, as well as a return to our customary practice of printing the words and tunes of songs that have recently caught our attention. There were some really fine songs performed last Hallowe'en in Athabasca, and we are tracking down the less familiar ones for you. Yes, including "The Last Battle". We hope you all caught the four radio programs in the *Singing Traditions* mini-series on CKUA Radio that featured recordings we made of concert and workshops at the CSTM conference. We understand they will be broadcast again in the summer.

We welcome Nova Scotia folksinger and author Clary Croft to the editorial board of *Canadian Folk Music*. Clary will need no further introduction. One other thing. Don't forget to book off the weekend of October 30th - 31st for our annual CSTM conference and AGM at York University. Plan to be in Toronto next Hallowe'en!

Dave & Rosa Gregory.

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