



Musicians of the Midnight Sun

Thank you for visiting the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website. Even though these blogs are being posted many weeks after the launch of the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website, my hope is that they will remain as a document along with the website itself with the intention to give a little bit more of a personal story of my relationships with these featured artists.

April and Stan Mercredi

I've known April and Stan Mercredi since the mid 1980s or so. Not so much in the local music scene but through working with Stan and knowing April through her advocacy work at the "Tree of Peace Friendship Centre". I knew they both played music but I think I was into the rock bands and clubs of the day and their music happened at the talent shows and community celebrations that I never seemed to get to. Musically, our paths never did cross before our lives went their separate ways.



April Mercredi with Stan Mercredi,(left) TK Mason (right). circa 1975, Red Deer, (photo © 2018 April Mercredi)

April has since moved on to her painting as her creative outlet and has made a name for herself in the Alberta artist's community. She still has the pipes to belt out a Hank William's hurtin' song and has not lost her love for singing at all.

I tracked April and Stan down after a couple of years of asking for phone numbers or addresses for them. I was motivated again by the challenge to interview the women who played music in the north in the 1960s and 70s.



with 'Northbound Freeway', 1968, Legion, Yellowknife, NT L-R Frenchy Cyrenne, Frank Wouters or Ted Hartley on drums, April Mercredi and Archie Loutitt. (photo © 2018 April Mercredi)

April and Stan still get out to play the odd show at senior's centres close to their home in Calgary. April's son Troy has followed in his Mother's footsteps and has a music career of his own.



with 'The Canadianas', L-R Dave Gautier, April Mercredi, Dave Pollock, Richard Slemyo, 1972, Red Deer, AB. (photo © 2018 ,April Mercredi)

It was a wonderful afternoon sitting with both of them, drinking tea, looking through the photo albums and reminiscing of their musical glory days in Red Deer and in Yellowknife.