



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.

John Sigvaldason

If there was one musician that I followed in the footsteps of, it would be John. I remember sitting in a living room of a neighbourhood friend, listening to John's band rehearse and marvelling at the work being done and the great mystery of it all. Later on, I would hire his band, "Stonehenge" to play at our school dances at William MacDonald Junior High. As I got into playing more around town, I would be picking up the Bass gigs that John had let go as he was on his way out to study music at Grant MacEwan Community college in Edmonton. He encouraged me to make plans to go out and study as well which is what I did about 4 years later. The musicians he played with here in YK before he left for college was the same group I played with and learned from. So, in a lot of ways, we both have the same shared experience from our earlier music days.



Elks or Legion, Yellowknife, NT 1972. standing L-R; Howard Mckay, Norman Glowach, Allan Burton, Joe Armstrong. Kneeling L-R; John Sigvaldason, Jo Ann Bergasse, Mark Bodie, Wayne Brown.

I also got to play and hang with a lot of the very young musicians in his band, "Stonehenge" in the years to follow. Many of those musicians are still playing their guitars and horns today. Even though as John has said, the music might have been god awful, the smiles on their faces in the band photos show that all were having the time of their lives, living out the small-town rock and roll dream.

After I finished college, I played in a country/rockabilly band with him in the Edmonton area. He moved on to Toronto and I returned back to Yellowknife. We lost touch with each other for many years until I was in Toronto for a gig in 2015, met up with him there and asked him for this interview.



Yellowknife, NT, 1973. L-R; John Sigvaldason, Norman Glowach, Howard Mckay, Wayne Brown, Jo Ann Bergasse, Allan Burton, Mark Bodie. (photo © 2018, John Sigvaldason)

It was a real pleasure to re-connect with John, to reminisce and catch up on all of the other players we have known and to reflect on both of our life experience as musicians for 40 plus years.