



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.

Pat Burke

Most of the singers/vocalists I have been knocked out with seem to come from Fort Smith. As a kid, going to teen dances in the basement of the old United Church, I was knocked out listening to Tom Hudson sing with “The Universal Music Machine”. Later on, I joined a band with Joe Kurzewski and was impressed hearing him belt out an Allman Brothers or Steely Dan song. To round out this triple threat, I remember being moved by the powerful voice of Pat Burke, singing his heart out on the Expo stage in 1986. There must be something in the water there.



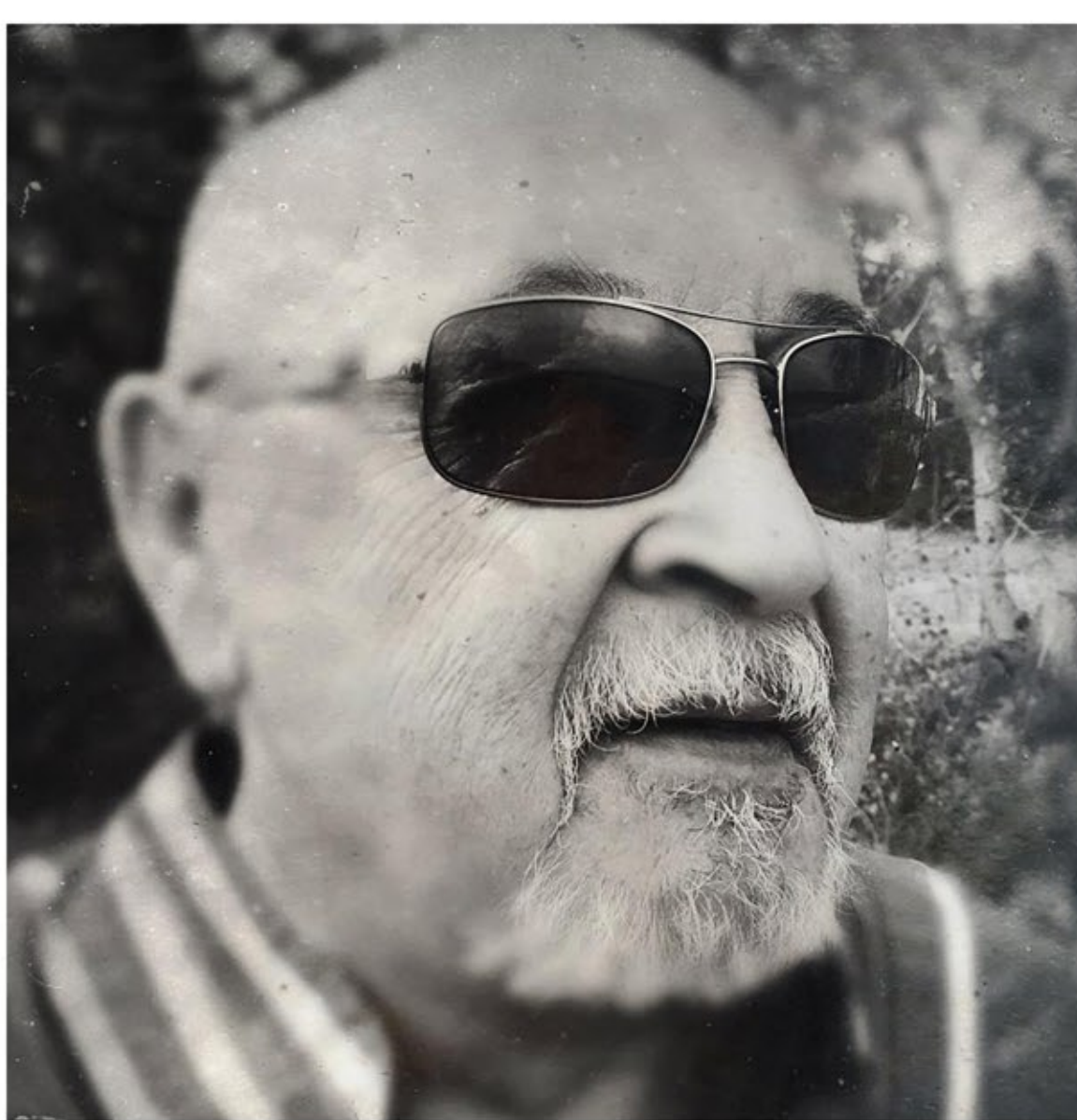
David Evalik, Pat Burke, Bill Lobb. Sir John Franklin High School,, Yellowknife, NT 1968, (photo credit unknown)

Pat paints a magical picture of the vibrant music scene in the Fort Smith of his youth. With many bands in town, made up of locals and students from other NWT communities attending Breynat Hall. The monthly battle of the bands contests kept them all practicing and rehearsing to “one up” not only the other bands but themselves. Pat finally picked up to the microphone when he went to Akaitcho Hall in the mid 1960s and hasn’t put it down since.



Pat Burke, CBC True North Concert, Fort Smith, 1988 (photo credit unknown)

Pat’s passion for his music has been unwavering since he was bitten by the bug back at Akaitcho Hall. Working, singing and raising family in Fort Smith, that passion has rubbed off on a few other singers and musicians. He is always ready to lend a hand or an ear to not only the musicians of his generation but to younger musicians as well to keep the live music scene alive in his hometown.



Pat Burke, 2017, Fort Smith. (photo courtesy of Richard Van Camp)