



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.

Randy Demmon

I was too young to be playing in the bars and saloons when *Randy* was active in the Yellowknife music scene. I did play with many of the musicians he played with though and they all talked about *Randy* in almost reverential tones. He was a very accomplished musician when he landed in Yellowknife, much more so than the other players and driven to accomplish more. His teaching job in a small northern mining town was but a steppingstone towards that goal.



“Rainbow Valley”, L-R Tom Hudson, Randy Demmon, Charles Kirkpatrick, Sandy Wilson, Kelly Tippet, Yellowknife Inn, Yellowknife, NT, 1975

When he did venture out into the local scene, by default, he mentored the players in the bands he was with, turning them on to the new and exciting music in the Jazz/Fusion genre. In the band, “Rainbow Valley” he brought in his experience of years of playing with pop bands in BC. Beside *Charles Kirkpatrick* on Bass, *John Telgen* on drums, *Sandy Wilson* on guitar and *Tom Hudson* on vocals, playing 6 nights a week, the experience that *Randy* and *Charles* brought to the band transferred to the other band members, as if by osmosis. That’s what happens on the stage. I came along shortly after and that same process came to me through *John* and *Sandy*, making me a much better musician at a young age.

Randy reflects fondly on his time up here in those days. Lots of characters, lots of different experiences but his aspirations for his music meant he had to leave the north behind to accomplish his goals. Not the first and most definitely not the last. Through his dedication to establishing and developing a music program in Yellowknife schools, the music programs I benefitted from years later, came as a direct result of his commitment. Through his inspiring and enlightening *John* and *Sandy*, I later came to benefit yet again from the experience that he passed on to them. For that, I have much to thank *Randy Demmon* for!