

# Trevor Tchir - Sky Locked Land

#7 on Alberta's CKUA radio for 2009

"*Sky Locked Land* answers the American Songbook with a Canadian volume, seeking to project that kind of universality through the specificity of stories and the beauty of craft." - Vue Magazine

Tchir unites the sounds and images of Canada's rural and urban spaces. Over the past twelve years, he has played his original songs to audiences across the country. His music tells stories of the people who work and love in its pulsing cities and austere hinterlands. Chart Attack, Edmonton Sun, and See Magazine have compared the album to the work of *Calexico*.

In October, 2009, Trevor Tchir released his fourth independent album, *Sky Locked Land*. Many of Edmonton's finest musicians are featured on the album, including his brother, Stephen Tchir, Lane Arndt, and Shannon Johnson. It also features long-time friend and collaborator Pierre Chretien, of Ottawa's *Soul Jazz Orchestra*, on organ. *Sky Locked Land* was recorded by Terry Tran at Riverdale Recorders, Edmonton, with additional tracking by Jason Jaknunas of Metropolitan Studios, Ottawa.

Tchir was born in St. Albert, Alberta, where, as a teen, he first heard the music of Bill Bourne, who was an early inspiration and, over two summers, Tchir's guitar teacher. Tchir left Alberta at seventeen for Ottawa, to study and to work in the House of Commons. His first years in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood brought fruitful creative collaboration, spawning Tchir's first release, *The Way I Feel Today* (1999). In 2001, Tchir released *November*, whose songs center on themes of devotion, ecological responsibility, and the place of spirituality in a world increasingly bent on economic and technological efficiency. From 2001-04, Tchir co-hosted the popular Café Nostalgica weekly hootenanny with poet Kristy McKay, now his wife. These Thursday nights helped to spring the careers of notable Canadian acts like *Soul Jazz Orchestra*, John Carroll, Rozalind MacPhail, and Melissa Laveaux. In 2005, Tchir released *Wooden Castles Fall*. Its closing song, "Athabasca," was recently featured in Leslie Iwerks' film, *Downstream*, shortlisted for the 2009 Academy Award for short documentary, about the environmental health hazards of Alberta oil development. Tchir returned to Edmonton in 2005. He holds a PhD in Political Philosophy from the University of Alberta and wrote his thesis on Hannah Arendt's analogy between performing arts and political action.

**Press quotes:** "Trevor Tchir is fascinated by the stories of our country and effectively translates this interest into multi-dimensional, lyrically rich songs." -Penguin Eggs Magazine

"Tchir takes the best of Calexico's Joey Burns' *The Black Light*-era quaver and applies that subdued, iconic style to our Alberta situation...It's an album of regret and slow-moving hope...Tchir's lyrics dig deep...Accordion and violin come in at perfect times. White space plays just as important a role.  
-Fish Griwkowsky, See Magazine

"With the release of *Sky Locked Land* comes a startling integration-a sense of Tchir completely inhabiting his work. The stories largely converge on themes of collective memory, community and haunting dislocation, stretched across the elements of earth and sky, and are counterpointed and echoed by the warmth of the music, whether polished and full or loose and spare. Perhaps the key to the album's vibrancy is a sort of spiritual interplay between the stories-rooted in truth, drawn from his own experiences or those of family members-and the music, created with an ever-expanding circle of musicians Tchir counts as community." -Christa O'Keefe, Vue Magazine

"Like Bob Dylan or James Taylor, Tchir's velvet-and-smoke voice sounds the same indefinable age throughout all his recordings, which seamlessly weave '70s Tapestry sounds with bluesy-country touches; his allegiance is to the time-honoured art of evoking emotion through storytelling."  
-Christa O'Keefe, See Magazine

"...wonderfully evocative songs..." -Eden Munro, Vue Magazine

**Influences:** Townes Van Zandt, Steve Earle, Gillian Welch, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, Bill Bourne, JJ Cale

## Trevor Tchir Sky Locked Land



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### Track Listing:

1. Are We There Yet?
2. In The Winter
3. Avalon
4. Borrowed & Blue
5. Georgie
6. Beneath The Mountain Ash
7. The Sweeter Air
8. Stones In The Ground
9. Wildmere
10. Tearing Down The Gardens
11. Myth Of Er

### Guest musicians on

#### *Sky Locked Land:*

Lane Arndt (AA Soundsystem)

Shannon Johnson (McDades)

Pierre Chretien (Soul Jazz

Orchestra)

Stephen Tchir (Five O'Clock

Charlie)

Jordan Faulds (Fractal Pattern)

Bramwell Park

Allyson Rogers

Steve Badach

Mickey Vallee

Peter Webb

Volya Baziuk

Kristy Mckay