

## **Trevor Tchir**

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Trevor Tchir (pronounced *cheer*) is pleased to announce the release of his fourth album, *Sky Locked Land*. Many of Edmonton's finest musicians are featured on the album, including his brother, Stephen Tchir, Lane Arndt, Jordan Faulds, and Shannon Johnson. It also features long-time friends and collaborators Pierre Chrétien, of Ottawa's Soul Jazz Orchestra, on organ, and Peter Webb, helping with harmonies. Other contributors include Bramwell Park, Volya Baziuk, Allyson Rogers, Steve Badach, Mickey Vallee, Kristy McKay, and Al Bragg. *Sky Locked Land* was recorded by Terry Tran at Riverdale Recorders, Edmonton.

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. In reviewer Mary Christa O'Keefe's words, "Tchir's lyrics are populated with characters who are both universal and intimate...In Tchir's hands place, time and relationships become characters, too, with their own agendas and idiosyncrasies...His allegiance is to the time-honoured art of evoking emotion through storytelling."

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 to work as a page in the House of Commons and to study political science. In 1997, he began playing regularly at Sandy Hill's Dunvegan Pub, where he would meet musical friends Bill Barnes, Peter Webb, Pierre Chrétien, Chris Lochner, and poet Kristy McKay, among others. These were years of fruitful creative collaboration, spawning Tchir's first release, *The Way I Feel Today*, recorded in March 1999 by Webb in his Nelson Street basement studio-apartment. Tchir continued to play Ottawa Valley venues such as Zaphod Beeblebrox, Black Sheep Inn, Cajun Attic, National Library Auditorium, and the Ottawa Tulip Festival, sharing the stage with acts like Drums and Tuba, Garnet Rogers, Jacob Two-Two, Richard Wood, Emm Gryner, Julie Larocque, Peter Webb, and Purple.

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. Tchir often returned to his Western home, playing with groups like Five O'Clock Charlie, a band featuring his brother Stephen Tchir on guitar. From 2001-04, Tchir co-hosted Ottawa's popular Café Nostalgica weekly open stage 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 September, 2003, on the second anniversary of the open stage, Nostalgica recorded a live collection of music and poetry: Thursday Heroes - Live at Café Nostalgica. During his tenure as host of Nostalgica, Trevor completed his Master's in Political Philosophy, focusing on the cultural theory of the influential Canadian writer, Charles Taylor. He continued to play regularly around Ottawa, backed by Webb and members of the funk-jazz fusion band SoulJazz Orchestra.

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. In the spring of 2006, Trevor embarked on his first Canadian tour, a 25 show journey by car, bus, ferry, and jetplane from Edmonton to St. John's, Newfoundland, hooking up with old bandmates in Ottawa, sharing bills with Pete Webb in Ontario and Alberta, and former Nostalgica Café regular, Amelia Curran, in Halifax.

Tchir 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.

### **Reviews:**

-Penguin Eggs magazine: "Trevor Tchir is fascinated by the stories of our country and, like Maria Dunn, he effectively translates this interest into multi-dimensional, lyrically rich songs."

-See Magazine, Edmonton: "Even when he strums alone, Tchir is surrounded by people. His lyrics are populated with characters who are both universal and intimate: poets who waitress, not-even-exes wondering why love never got a foothold, and grandparents building a nation and a place in it. In Tchir's hands place, time and relationships become characters, too, with their own agendas and idiosyncrasies...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."

-4 out of 5: [Wooden Castles Fall] brings me back to a lot of the deeper pop of the '70s ...Tchir's voice has about the same structure as Billy Joel's, though he lives in more of a Joey Burns, Calexico space...Nice stuff. -Fish Griwkowsky, Edmonton Sun

-St. Albert Gazette: "Wooden Castles Fall is a singular body of work that is a testament to Tchir's personal integrity...It's a fairly sophisticated vision that reworks the stuff of everyday experiences...He's created many prairie images and tales with poetic lyrics that are at times humoured, tender and insightful. And the instrumentation is spare but evocative...There's a strong core of philosophical truth and artistic integrity at the heart of this album, the kind that could be around for generations when other popular mainstream pieces have faded into obscurity."

-Ottawa Xpress (review of "November"): "When Trevor Tchir put out his first album, *The Way I Feel Today* (1999), he had a kind of freewheelin' approach – a style clearly inspired by the likes of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. At heart, this Edmonton-raised Ottawan is still a singer-songwriter with an acoustic guitar, but he has taken his brand of folk music a step further. The result, on impressive songs such as *Elevate Achilles* and *Soul Sister* is something even Dylan would enjoy, and Bob might just envy this singer's young vocal chords."

## **Memorable Past Shows:**

- August 29, 2009, Empress Ale House, Edmonton, with The Provincial Archive
- June 19-21, 2009, North Country Fair, Driftpile Valley, Alberta
- June 3, 2009, Edmonton, Blue Chair Café, with Charlotte Cornfield, The Keys
- May 31, 2009, Wakefield, QC, Blacksheep Inn, with Natalia Zukerman, Lyndell Montgomery, Rozalind MacPhail
- Feb. 28, 2009, Black Dog Freehouse, Edmonton, Tchir Brothers, with Jeff Stuart
- Feb. 26, 2009, Blue Chair Café, Edmonton, with Scott Cook and Jesse Dee
- Feb. 18, 2009: Empress Ale House, Edmonton, with Pale Moon Lights
- Dec. 22, 2008: New City Likwid Lounge, Edmonton, with Illfit Outfit, Hector Fector, Yes Nice
- Dec. 17, 2008: Urban Lounge, Edmonton, with Jeff Stuart
- Nov. 29, 2008: Blackdog Freehouse, Edmonton, with The Provincial Archive
- Nov. 14, 2008: Leva, Edmonton
- Oct. 1, 2008: Loplops, Sault Ste. Marie
- Sept. 20, 2008: Appolo, Thunder Bay
- Sept. 12, 2008: Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton - Moving Music: Edmonton Transit Centennial – with Shout Out Out Out Out and The Whitsundays
- Sept. 6, 2008: Ryley, Alberta, Beaver County 50th Anniversary
- Sept. 4, 2008: Urban Lounge, Edmonton, with Hector Fector and Darren Frank
- June 28, 2008: Wild Oats and Notes Festival, Tofield, AB
- June 11, 2008: Edmonton, O'Byrnes
- June 21, 2008: Edmonton, Blackdog
- May 27, 2008: Edmonton, Druid
- May 16, 2008: Edmonton, Leva
- Dec. 29, 2007: Edmonton. Blackdog Freehouse
- Dec. 10, 2007: Ottawa, Tchir Brothers at Zaphod Beeblebrox
- Sept. 28, 2007: 7 Street Lofts, Edmonton
- Nov. 14, 2007, Saskatoon, Brick Books launch of Thin Moon Psalm by Sheri Benning
- July 7, 2007: Vienna, Austria - Cafe Carina, with Mika Vember
- April 27, 2007: Powerplant, Edmonton, with Dan Bern and Jeff Stuart
- March 24, 2007: Narratives of Citizenship Artists' Gala with Myrna Kostash, Shirley Serviss, Darrin Hagen, Minister Faust - Edmonton
- March, 22 2007: The Texture and the Weave: Songs in Time of Struggle - Convocation Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton - Ann Vriend, Trevor Tchir, David Shepherd, Leah Pessoa, Paul Morgan Donald, Daniel Benjamin Buxton - Documentary Presentation by Michael MacDonald
- March 14: 2007: Blue Chair Café, Edmonton, with Yael Wand
- Feb. 14, 2007: Sidetrack Café, Edmonton, with Matt Allen (Sidetrack's last show)
- Feb. 3, 2007: A Bar Named Sue, Calgary, with Andrew Kennedy
- Jan. 27, 2007: Blackdog, Edmonton, with Jeff Stuart Band
- Nov. 15, 2006: Sidetrack Cafe, Edmonton with Jeff Stuart and Rozalind MacPhail
- Nov. 10, 2006: Nostalgica Cafe, Ottawa, with Purple and John Carroll
- Nov. 7, 2006: Nostalgica Cafe, Ottawa, with People Project
- Nov. 1, 2006: Nightingale Pub, East Village, New York City
- Oct. 13, 2006: Dinwoodie Lounge, Edmonton, with Dave Simpson

- Sept. 24, 2006: St. Albert Grain Elevator 100th Anniversary
- Sept. 20, 2006: Cafe Koi, Calgary, with poetry by Paul Marshall, K.L. McKay, Xstine Cook, Laurie Fuhr
- July 28-30, 2006: Sasquatch Festival, Easyford, AB
- June 23, 2006: Karma Local Arts House, Calgary, with Pete Webb
- June 21, 2006: The Vat, Red Deer, AB, with Pete Webb
- June 17, 2006: Blackdog Freehouse, Edmonton, with Pete Webb
- June 7, 2006: Ship Pub, St. John's, NL
- May 28, 2006: Ginger's Tavern, Halifax, with Amelia Curran
- May 23, 2006: Nelligan's Pub, Québec City
- May 22, 2006: Le Dépanneur Café, Montréal
- May 21, 2006: Casa Del Popolo, Words and Music event, Montreal
- May 20, 2006: Jimmy Jazz, Guelph
- May 19, 2006: Boar's Head at Queen's Inn, Stratford, ON, with Pete Webb
- May 14, 2006: Tranzac, Toronto, with Pete Webb, James Turner, Christian Ingelevics
- May 13, 2006: Zaphod Beeblebrox, Ottawa, with Pete Webb
- May 12, 2006: Nostalgica Café, Ottawa
- May 4, 2006: Loplop's, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
- May 2, 2006: Apollo, Thunder Bay, ON
- April 30, 2006: Academy Bar & Eatery, Winnipeg, with Marcel Desilets
- April 28, 2006: Café Vivant, Saskatoon, SK
- April 25, 2006: Canadian tour kickoff show - Sidetrack Café new location, Edmonton
- Dec. 10, 2005: Blackdog Freehouse, Edmonton, with Craig Schram (Five O'Clock Charlie)
- Nov. 29, 2005: Convocation Hall, Edmonton, Tribute to Moses Asch and Smithsonian Folkways
- Oct. 6, 2005: Sidetrack Cafe, Edmonton, with Cam Penner and Jeff Stuart
- Sept. 9, 2005: Powerplant, Edmonton, with Danny Michel and AA Sound System
- June 15, 2005: Sidetrack Café, with Yael Wand and Cam Penner
- June 4, 2005: The Tchir Brothers, (Trevor and Stephen Tchir) Black Dog Freehouse, Edmonton, AB
- May 22, 2005: Manx Pub, Ottawa, with Yael Wand
- May 21, 2005: *Wooden Castles Fall* CD release, Zaphod Beeblebrox, Ottawa, with John Carroll
- April 9, 2005: *WCF* CD release, Sidetrack Café, Edmonton, with Five O'Clock Charlie and Mark Davis
- Feb. 27, 2005: Powerplant, Edmonton, with Captain Tractor
- Dec. 21, 2004: Sidetrack Café, Edmonton, with Jeff Stuart and Ayla Brook
- April 15, 2004: Barrymore's Music Hall, Ottawa, with Moonlight Graham.
- Dec. 11, 2003: Songs for Winter's Night, National Arts Centre Fourth Stage
- Nov. 8, 2003: Opened for Priya Thomas, Zaphod Beeblebrox, Ottawa
- Sept. 27, 2003: Co-Produced live recording of "Thursday Heroes: Live at Café Nostalgica", Ottawa
- May, 2003: Canadian Tulip Festival, Ottawa
- Nov., 2002: Café May, Toronto, with Lighthousekeepers
- March, 2002: Opened for Garnet Rogers, National Library Auditorium
- Oct. 13, 2001: Eastern CD Release of November, Zaphod Beeblebrox

- Sept. 12, 2001: Opened for Drums and Tuba, Zaphod Beeblebrox
- Feb. 2, 2001: Barrymore's, Ottawa: Songwriters Fundraiser for Children's Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Nov., 2000: Opened for Emm Gryner, Zaphod Beeblebrox
- Sept., 2000: Opened for Julie Larocque, Carleton Alumni Auditorium
- Nov. 1999: Opened for Richard Wood, Zaphod's 2