

Gareth Cook



Music

(Composition,

Guitar, Piano, Voice)

Box 486

Air Ronge, SK

S0J 3G0

(306) 425- 1290

cook_gareth@hotmail.com

English

CD for Sale

Workshops/Performances

Available

Will travel

Artist Biography/Statement

I earned an undergraduate degree in music theory and composition (with applied instruments, guitar, keyboard, voice and clarinet) in 1976. I taught music (classroom, choir) and English in Saskatchewan public schools. In 1992 I began working for Northlands College until retirement in 2009.

During that time I performed in various bands and musical organizations and wrote music as well. My work has been aired by CBC, nominated for a Western Canada Music Alliance (Best Classical Composition, 2009). My music has been performed by the Saskatoon Symphony, the Adaskan String Trio, the Saskatoon Chamber Singers, high school bands in Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Youth Orchestra.

I have a studio in the basement of my home where I continue to work. I am currently collaborating on a musical play written by author Rod McIntyre. Our play will be produced by Dancing Sky Theatre, and toured – thanks to a Sask. Arts Board grant – throughout the province in 2011.

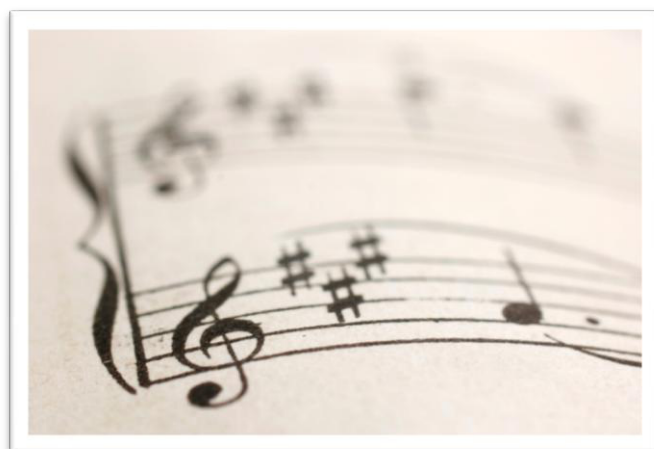
My work has been awarded Sask. Arts Board Grants –

A CD of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's performance of my string quartet 'Songs of Woods, Rock, and Water' was funded by the Sask. Arts Board

A piece of string trio, 'Romancy', was performed in Montreal by the Adaskin String Trio and recorded by Radio Canada, Quebec.

Workshops

I enjoy teaching guitar and music theory to groups. As a teacher I taught guitar and music theory. I sing and play the guitar in many idioms, though heavy metal is not in my repertoire.



Leonard Adam

“Leonard Adam & Sons”



Music (Country, Rock, Pop,
Original)

Leonard Adam

Box 41

Fond du Lac, SK

SOJ 0W0

(306) 686 – 4888

Will Perform

Workshops Available

Will Travel

Artist Biography/Statement

I started playing music at the age of 13 as a back-up fiddle and guitar player with my uncle. I started singing at the age of 17. I've been playing on graduations and at festivals in the northern area. In the 90ies an elder said to me: "You do good music, why don't you do your own?" So I went down to my roots: I was raised by my grandparents. They are 90 years old and they lived in three different worlds. It wasn't easy back then. Everything was on foot, how tough they walked on the land of ours. As I was growing, I always asked questions, about their lives, what they had seen. I brought all this together in my music. My first song was "Relatives" in 1997, it's in Dene. It took me two years to realize it. There's a funny story behind that song. My wife said: "Don't send it to MBC! Nobody sings in Dene. So I send it without even telling her. Couple days later in the morning in June, the sun was up already, I hear on MBC: "Okay, folks, we have something new, really new, he sings in his own language." And they played it. Half an hour later they played it again. They were getting phone calls, people were so choked, they couldn't speak. They said it was a beautiful song. That first day they played it ten times. It got to me, so I had to make an album. After another three years, I realized my first CD, "Spirit Flies" (1999) with six songs in Dene and four in English. I sang about my traditions, but also about Global Warming. I was nominated for the Prairie Music Award. I think I am the first Dene to make a CD in my own language. It's on I-tunes and you can buy it in stores. I travelled a lot over Canada, playing music. In 2005 my youngest boy was about 4 years old, talking about drums. One day at a wedding there was no drummer. He said: "Dad, I'll play it." He just started playing, never missed a beat. Everyone was surprised. And I thought: "My baby is playing music." He asked me to be part of my new CD. He is eleven now. His name is Dene. He plays with me. My oldest son Len is 18. One year at the winter festival, the bass player couldn't come. I phoned around, but couldn't find anybody. My oldest said: "How many songs do you need to play for this gig?" He came from the bedroom to the stage. So there are three of us now. In March we'll go to the studio for my new CD with my sons.

Workshops

We show other communities what we do. Show what kids can do, what is good and what is not. I like to share my culture. Talk to the kids. I like to give back what I learned. We perform at festivals, community events, anything, backyard parties, graduations, fund raisers.



Oliver Bear



Music

Band Name 'Freedom Road'

Box 64

Southend, SK

S0J 2L0

(306) 758 – 2240 (mother)

Cree and English

Will Perform

Workshops Available

Will Travel (if transportation
is provided)

Artist Biography/Statement

I was raised by my grandparents. That's how I came to be a musician. My grandmother used to make me a guitar out of a fish board and rabbit snares. I used to strum that. My grandma played accordion, grandpa mouth organ. I grew up on Reindeer Lake, lived there since I was a baby. When I turned sixteen I started to live on my own. I used to watch my brother play guitar and fiddle. That's how I learned. I picked up some basic chords. I went to square dances a lot to watch how they played the fiddle. At the age of 18 I got my first own fiddle and I started playing on dances. When I got older, I moved to Prince Albert. That was 1986. Since then I learned much more music. I played with Marius Cummings from Buffalo Narrows and Brian Gamble from Duck Lake. Our first name was 'Voyagers' Band'. We travelled to a lot of places in Northern Saskatchewan and Alberta, too. We started playing at dry dances only, but in '88 Brian suggested to play in bars. We toured northern Alberta, and played in a bar in Edmonton called 'York Hotel' and a real fancy one, the 'Beverly West'. We used to do a show at every winter festival in Prince Albert. In 1989 we changed our name to 'Country Fugitives'. In 1990 we went to a big violin jamboree with 'Country Fugitives'. We made 9th place out of 74 bands. I moved back to Southend in 1999. I never played country music since. Then I met Denis Cook. He told me, not to quit music. "You can play for Jesus", he said. Now I play gospel music. Our band is called 'Freedom Road'. We still travel all over Northern Saskatchewan and play at gospel jamborees. Dennis Cook plays rhythm. I play lead guitar, sometimes fiddle. Napoleon Thomas plays keyboard and Belgian drums. This is the third year with 'Freedom Road'. We did some recording and made demo tapes. Conrad Naytowhow filmed us playing at Molanosa. You can watch it on u-tube.

Workshops

Sometimes I show youth at the youth centre how to play guitar and fiddle. I would like to teach people play guitar, helps them too to keep their notes better when singing.



Billy Joe Mercredi



Music

Box 26

Stony Rapids, SK

S0J 2R0

(306) 439 – 2048

Will Perform

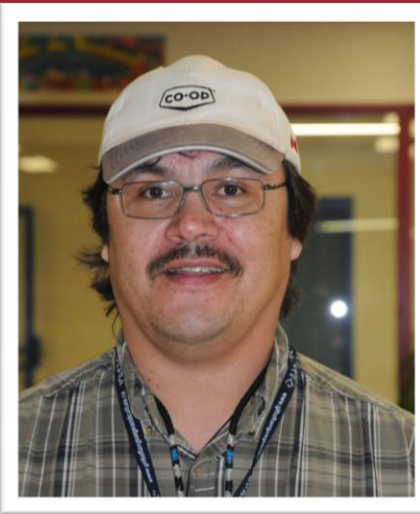
Workshops Available

Artist Biography/Statement

I play fiddle, guitar and keyboard. I also play traditional hand drums, that's how we grew up - to respect the animals and that's what we teach our children. My dad used to play fiddle and harmonica. I played music ever since I can remember. One of my older brothers went to the army and left his fiddle behind. I picked it up. When he came back, he taught me. After I got married, I taught my little boy. So I bought him a violin, guitar and keyboard. I play at weddings and anniversaries and carnivals. There are a lot of young people that are good fiddlers in Fond du Lac, Black Lake and Wollaston Lake. There's no place to go for them, so they meet at the warehouse and learn from each other.



O. Garry Bear



Music

(Country, Rock, original)

Lead singer

Band Name: "After the Rain"

Box 292

Sandy Bay, SK

S0P 0G0

(306) 754 – 4405

ogbear_07@yahoo.ca

Cree & English

Will Perform

Workshops Available

Will Travel

Artist Biography/Statement

I came to Sandy Bay from a foster home when I was eleven years old. I started school at Sandy Bay and got a music program at school at age thirteen with Rob Shukin. He still teaches here. I played bass guitar in the school band, progressed to six string guitar and eventually drums. I played locally with different bands from age sixteen to twenty. Then I started to write my own music. I first recorded with 'Young Blood' in the 80ies and in 2000 I started "After the rain", recorded two CD's, all original music. I performed all over Northern Saskatchewan, in Texas and even in Ottawa at the National Aboriginal Day. I put it on hold for now to be a teacher. I teach Cree and culture and promote music to young students. My biggest inspiration to play my own music is my wife Marylee. She changed my life to become more independent and self confident in my abilities.

Workshops

I could do workshops in raising awareness of the benefits of being a musician and the challenges a musician faces. I could do a presentation and demonstration and do a Q&A period.

