

RICHARD MANUEL, KEN KALMUSKY AND JOHN TILL



In 1957 the three would form The Revols with fellow locals Doug Rhodes and John Winkler in Ken Kalmusky's parent's basement on Queen Street in Stratford. As 14 and 15 year old kids, they would eventually join Ronnie Hawkins and go on together and individually to pave international music history. Richard Manuel would go onto play with Bob Dylan and later form The Band. Ken Kalmusky ended up playing bass with Ian & Sylvia and The Great Speckled Bird. While John Till joined Janis Joplin's last band in 1969.

COLIN FISHER & JASON HAMMER

Colin Fisher and Jason Hammer are brothers. This image is based on various clips of them playing while on short tour of Ontario and Quebec in the late 1990s. Their true roots are in Stratford and, in fact, a good portion of the genesis of their insanity would drift out of the window just above this alley.



THE WHEEZING DOGZ



The Wheezing Dogz were Stratford's first seminal no wave/art/punk band. They performed a handful of performances at art galleries, stags and warehouse parties in 1978 and 1979 in and around Stratford. They released two successful 7" EPs in that time. They took a short hiatus until the mid-1980s, when they reformed as the Leotard Geeks to release one LP on Gravelvoice Records in the USA. Members of this band can still be found around the area playing in various bands.

DAVE FISH (aka The Blue Pig)

Dave Fischer was the bass player in both the Wheezing Dogz and Leotard Geeks, both of which still have a large underground following in Canada and the USA. Dave also performed in a variety of bands, including Six Cups of Coffee, Japanese Teenager and Legend of Texas Doom, just to name a few, all of which specialized in his unique brand of country and rockabilly. Dave will be missed. R.I.P. 2006



LOUIS APPLEBAUM

Born in Toronto, Applebaum wrote and conducted music for over 75 Stratford Festival productions. He created and ran Stratford's Music Festival, which for many years presented outstanding concerts, operas, operettas, jazz, folk music, master classes and films by the world's leading artists. His stage works include collaborations with Robertson Davies, Paul Quarrington and W.O. Mitchell, while his several hundred radio, film and television scores

have won prizes ranging from Academy Award nominations to Genies and Geminis.

JOHN BOYDEN

John Boyden was born in Woodstock in 1935, but his family moved to Stratford when he was three years old and operated Iona Fish and Chips. While giving a concert at the Festival Theatre in 1955, Boyden was heard by one of the world's best German lieder singers, Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, who agreed to accept him as a pupil. His first European concert was held in Vienna in 1961 and was followed by eight years of touring and singing all over Europe, Russia, United States and Canada. He returned to Stratford in 1970 for a one year vacation that stretched into nine years. His last performance was in 1980 at a concert given by the Stratford Youth Choir.



SOYLENT GREEN

Though Soylent Green was made up of modest individuals their contribution to the Stratford music scene was anything but. Releasing a number of independent albums on cassette, curating a compilation CD chronicling the Stratford music scene of the mid-1990's and engineering lo-fi recordings for other local bands, Soylent Green took the DIY

ethic to heart and provided a blueprint for other local bands to follow. Under the moniker Lungbutter the band's sound continued to evolve yielding even more compelling albums and live performances. The band will forever be held in high esteem for their music and their immeasurable influence on the local music community.

THE OTTO HENDERSON BAND

In the 1930s there was always a band playing in Stratford, if it wasn't at the Casino (now the Tom Patterson Theatre) or at the pavilion in Queen's Park, it was at the Winter Garden dance hall on Market Place (upstairs of 31 Market Place). The Otto Henderson Band, comprised of Tommy Murdock, Herbie Fink, Walter Kalmusky, Bill Carter, Jack Purdue, Otto Henderson, Julia Brodhagen Smith and Eryln Wilker, was just one of the many bands that could be heard playing live regularly on Stratford's CJCS radio station.



JACK HAYTER

Stratford's quintessential music man, Jack Hayter picked up a saxophone at age 12 and entertained people his entire life. You'd be hard pressed to have missed Jack Hayter's music growing up in Stratford, whether it was in the 1930s playing in big bands at the Casino (now the Tom Patterson Theatre), dances at the Winter Garden dance hall (upstairs of 31 Market Place), with his 1939 Casino

Band out front of Watson's Bazaar on weekends or on The Barge all summer long, the sound of Jack's saxophone filled Stratford for generations.

DAYNA MANNING

Born and raised in Stratford in a musical home – her father a music teacher at Northwestern Secondary School – Dayna Manning took to the form at a young age. Set to self-produce her first album at the age of 16, she was signed by EMI and would release two albums. She toured with the first season of Lilith Fair and was nominated for the 1998 Juno Award for Best New Artist. After eight years, she parted ways with EMI and released her third album, *Folkyo*, on her own label, LeParc Records.



LOREENA MCKENNITT

Canadian singer/composer Loreena McKennitt is self-managed, self-produced, and the head of her own internationally successful record label, Quinlan Road. In a recording career spanning nearly two decades, McKennitt's "eclectic Celtic" music has won critical acclaim worldwide and gold, platinum and multi-platinum sales awards in fifteen countries across four continents. Born in the province of Manitoba, Loreena moved to

Stratford, Ontario in 1981, where she still resides. She has acted and sung in, and composed music for, Stratford Festival productions ranging from *The Tempest* (1982) to *The Merchant Of Venice* (2001).

THE BLACK SWAN

In 1961, under the banner "JAZZ – ESPRESSO – PEACE", The Black Swan Coffee-House (Harry W. Finlay, proprietor) brought to Stratford its first espresso machine and regular after-theatre music, poetry, dramatic readings and untrammled discussion of issues of the day. Migrating from 380 Ontario Street (1961) through 32 Downie Street (1962-63), and 42 Wellington Street (1964-65), the swan finally settled at 31 Market Place for a decade, and around it there grew a community of sorts.



THE PERTH COUNTY CONSPIRACY (DOES NOT EXIST)



Aptly described as "a loose-knit lump of lunatic fringe", the Perth County Conspiracy (does not exist) was an amorphous outgrowth of Stratford's seasonal Black Swan Coffee-House. Touring during the Swan's off-season The Conspiracy played across Canada in halls and clubs large and small, schools, prisons and the like. In February of 1975 in an atypical example a six member troupe attended an International Festival of Political Song in East Berlin as guests of the people of the German Democratic Republic. The six people pictured above spent three weeks performing in concert halls and work-places along with songwriters from some 40 (mostly socialist) countries. Portrayed in the mural are Larry "Fretless" Brown, Richard Keelan, Harry Finlay, Paul Gellman, Dorit Learned and Cedric Smith.