

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT
THE CURRENT
OCT. – DEC. 2007

In studio performances on The Current from October 1 to December 31, 2007

Heiruspecs

December 22, 2007 is Heiruspecs Day in St. Paul. After 10 years together playing live-band hip hop, it's about time their hometown honors the contribution to the local music community they've made over the years. (12/21/2007)

Vicious Vicious

Vicious Vicious began as lead man Erik Appelwick's moniker for his debut album "Blood and Clover." Now Vicious Vicious is a full-blown live band featuring some local heavyweights including Darren Jackson, Alex Oana, and Martin Dosh. (12/14/2007)

Alison Rae and Julie Lee

It's been said that Nashville has more songwriters per capita than most other towns. Alison Rae and Julie Lee are both singer-songwriters with Nashville experience. Alison spent a few years there before moving back home to Minnesota. Julie lives there now and has had success not only recording her own music, but also having it recorded by the likes of Alison Krauss. (12/14/2007)

Nellie McKay

Some would say that stand-up comedy would be the perfect preparation for a career in the music industry. However, Nellie McKay decided to go her own way with her Hungry Mouse label and self-produce her new album "Pretty Little Head" and her 30-minute miniature entitled "Obligatory Villagers." (12/11/2007)

The Get-Rites

Harkening back to the music of the Louvin Brothers, The Get-Rites' country gospel songs don't leave out anything one needs to get converted. Tom Feldmann delivers the message in these songs right up front and lays the cards on the table. (12/06/2007)

Michael Monroe

Now in his fourth decade of performing, Michael Monroe is out with his newest recording, "Wintersong". It's a collection of songs and instrumentals inspired by the beauty of the winter season. (12/05/2007)

Tegan and Sara

Canadian twins Tegan and Sara combine crafty song writing with pop sensibilities on their new CD "The Con," which was produced by Chris Walla of Death Cab For Cutie. (12/03/2007)

Dakota Dave Hull

Local guitarist, producer, radio host, and musical historian Dakota Dave Hull has a new album he's releasing in the fall of 2008. It's more of what Dave does best, and that is write and interpret

original and traditional American music on any number of guitars from his wide collection. (11/29/2007)

Over the Rhine

Johnny and June did it, so Karin Bergquist and Linford Detweiler are hoping they can be among those married couples who successfully write and produce music together. So far, it's working very well. (11/27/2007)

Leo Kottke

Leo Kottke will be one of the first to say perfection is imperfect. Or that imperfection is, well...artistic. He is a legend among guitarists. He burst on to the scene in 1969 with an album recorded live at the Scholar Coffee House in the Twin Cities and has amazed listeners ever since. (11/21/2007)

Small Sins

On the tail end of their tour supporting their sophomore release "Mood Swings," the Toronto-based indie-rock quintet Small Sins used an eclectic mix of a chain, bells, a drum machine and an omnichord during their in studio performance at The Current. (11/21/2007)

Ed Ackerson

Local legend and Polara frontman Ed Ackerson has crossed several things off of life's to do list: make a band, write songs, produce records, start a record label, and engineer records. However, he's never recorded a solo album until now. Ackerson recorded and played all of the instruments on the acoustic meets electric indie-pop self-titled release. (11/20/2007)

John Wills

Minneapolis-based singer-songwriter John Wills says his music is influenced by delta bluesmen, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, and others; however, he started out his career in a punk band. (11/20/2007)

Me'Shell Ndegeocello

One thing we learned about Me'Shell Ndegeocello today is that she doesn't like to be boxed in nor does she care to be placed in a specific genre of music. Me'Shell Ndegeocello scored a few early hits in her career but decided to concentrate on more challenging material by exploring the politics of race and sex, among other topics. (11/15/2007)

Lou Berryman and Peter Berryman

There's an art to writing a funny song. Do you load it up with silliness, or do you try to sneak in something serious from time to time? Lou and Peter Berryman are masters of the silly song. and they do - occasionally - work in deeper and thought-provoking issues. (11/15/2007)

John Gorka

What do you do after 20 years as a singer-songwriter when you've recorded an armload of successful CDs, toured the country filling concert halls and coffee houses, and written hundreds of songs? You release a two-disc, high-quality DVD set of some of your best songs, recorded in a theater in Los Angeles without an audience. (11/14/2007)

Peter Mayer

Peter Mayer finally gave in to pressure. His albums and concerts are full of wonderfully crafted, meaningful, deep songs. However, his new CD "Novelties" is full of his "not so serious" songs. (11/12/2007)

Georgie James

Georgie James is not a person. Georgie James is a band, based out of Washington, DC. The duo just signed with Saddle Creek Records (home to Bright Eyes, Maria Taylor and Two Gallants), who released their debut album "Places" in late September, 2007. (11/12/2007)

Tori Amos

Tori Amos is an outspoken and creative pianist, singer/songwriter and has sold over 12 million records worldwide. Her latest CD, entitled "American Doll Posse" is her ninth studio album and some are calling this her most ambitious work. (11/07/2007)

Johnsmith

Johnsmith calls himself a "blue collar" songwriter and by looking at his history you could say that's accurate. He spent a number of years as a songwriter for Nashville music companies and has won numerous awards for his creations including honors at the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival. He also teaches songwriting to up and coming performers. (11/07/2007)

The Owls

"Finally" is quite often the first word that comes to mind when people hear that local indie-poppers The Owls are finally releasing a full-length album. Their follow-up to 2004's "Our Hopes And Dreams" EP, "Daughters and Suns" continues to be loaded with male-female vocal harmonies and catchy melodies. (11/05/2007)

Stars

The band has been called soft revolutionaries and their music described as their rallying cry. Their latest offering "In Our Bedroom after the War" was released in 2007 and the band continues to make beautiful and relevant music. (11/05/2007)

David Kilgour

Beginning his career in 1979 as the guitarist in The Clean, David Kilgour has been weaving his career between playing with Clean, other projects, and creating his own solo work. (11/05/2007)

Art Brut

Art Brut's first full-length CD was "Bang Bang Rock and Roll" released in May 2005. Since that time, the band has been out touring making even better music and they released their second full length project entitled, "It's A Bit Complicated" in June 2007. (11/01/2007)

Sia

On Halloween night, a few lucky listeners of Minnesota Public Radio were treated to a Halloween concert performed by Sia at the historic and haunted Fitzgerald Theater. At this special invite-only show, Sia and her band members took to the stage in full Halloween costumes for a live set. (11/01/2007)

Keb' Mo'

Keb' Mo' doesn't like to be pigeon-holed. But he is. Often. Born Kevin Moore in South Los Angeles, he was raised on gospel, played R&B and pop, but was later influenced by jazz and blues and now is widely known as one of the country's best blues singer-songwriters. (11/01/2007)

Josh Rouse

The prolific singer-songwriter Josh Rouse loves the recording process. He doesn't find it difficult to write twelve good songs, so he finds himself in a recording studio every year or so. After recording over six days in Puerto de Santa Maria in Spain, Rouse released his seventh full-length album, "Country Mouse City House," the title of which was inspired by a 70-mile walk through the north of Spain. (10/28/2007)

Matthew Dear

Man of many pseudonyms including False, Jabberjaw, and Audion, Matthew Dear creates a genre-bending style of music ranging from poppy electronic to minimalist techno to dancefloor-friendly rock. (10/24/2007)

Rogue Wave

What's the best thing to do when you find yourself unemployed? Well, go to New York City, do some recording, head back to San Francisco, ditch your solo project, and form your own indie-rock band. That's exactly what Zach Rogue did when he left his solo project, Desoto Reds, to form Rogue Wave at the end of 2002. (10/23/2007)

Shout Out Louds

Shout Out Louds are a band originally from Stockholm, Sweden. They've known each other since they were youngsters and started playing together in 2001. "Our Ill Wills" is their latest release and the first on their new label Merge Records. (10/18/2007)

Dan Wilson

In 2007 Dan Wilson received a Grammy Award for Song of the Year for writing the Dixie Chicks' "Not Ready to Make Nice". Maybe 2008 will bring Dan the same fortune for his debut solo CD "Free Life". (10/17/2007)

Josh Ritter

Growing up in Idaho, Josh Ritter's folk-styled music began when, after being inspired by the music of Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash, he got his first guitar. His career exploded in Ireland after he met Glen Hansard and started touring with The Frames. (10/17/2007)

The New Pornographers

Vancouver indie-rock super group The New Pornographers formed in 1996, but didn't release their debut album, "Mass Romantic," until the fall of 2000. Not surprising, given everyone in the band was already involved with successful projects. (10/17/2007)

Diane Jarvi and Dan Newton

Diane Jarvi was born in the US, but her ancestry is most definitely Finnish. She's known for her unique interpretations of world and folk music and her poetry. On her most recent recording she explores more Finnish traditional music, but also dives into Gypsy jazz. (10/17/2007)

Raul Midon

The New Mexico born, New York-based writer, vocalist, and guitarist Raul Midon released his debut album "State of Mind" in 2005. He combines his distinct voice, strumming beats, and a cappella sounds to create a one-man show. (10/15/2007)

The Fiery Furnaces

The playful indie-pop brother and sister duo Matt and Eleanor Friedberger of Brooklyn's Fiery Furnaces have just released their fifth full-length album Widow City. (10/12/2007)

The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank

What's in a name? A little of this, a little of that, according to the Alexy brothers. They live near Duluth currently, but grew up in New Jersey and spent a lot of time hanging with their Uncle Frank. So much time, in fact, that they call themselves the Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank. (10/12/2007)

Spoon

Spoon formed in Austin Texas in 1994 and released their debut CD, Telephono in 1996. Their sound and style were immediately compared to Sonic Youth and Pixies. Spoon's latest project is Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga, named after a melody from one of the album's songs "The Ghost of You Lingers." (10/11/2007)

Sea Wolf

Named after Jack London's 1904 novel, L.A.'s Sea Wolf is a moniker for singer/songwriter Alex Brown Church's dark, folk-rock project. Formerly the bassist in the pop band Irving, Church plays with a full band including cello and marxophone. (10/11/2007)

Matt Pond PA

It's been just under a year since Matt Pond PA stopped by the station the first time. In that time the lineup has changed a bit and they've released both the If You Want Blood EP and the Last Light full length album, which show's Matt's reverence for those who are English, like Pulp and Blur. (10/10/2007)

John Vanderslice

John Vanderslice grew up in Florida and Georgia before eventually moving to Potomac Maryland. He took piano lessons as a child, and by eighth grade he had learned to play guitar. He released three well-received albums with the band MK Ultra and in 2000 his solo debut album, Mass Suicide Occult Figurines, was recorded in his own studio, Tiny Telephone which he started in 1997. (10/09/2007)

Imperial Teen

It's been five years since San Francisco's alterna-pop rockers Imperial Teen have released a record. Evidently, that's enough time for the members of the band to have a baby, record some songs for television, pursue a career in hairstyling, and work on another music project. (10/06/2007)

Of Montreal

The band's founding member Kevin Barnes made headlines earlier this year when he performed several songs nude during a Las Vegas performance. Their latest CD is called "Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer" and the band has embarked on another US tour to help promote it. (10/05/2007)

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah

Being one of the few rock bands with a name you can act out in charades, the indie rockers Clap Your Hands Say Yeah are known for their growing success by doing it themselves. Even with band members in both Philadelphia and Brooklyn, CYHSY have managed to record, produce, and distribute their albums on their own. (10/04/2007)

Hot Hot Heat

While Hot Hot Heat's new CD retains the melodies and witty wordplay fans have come to expect, it's been called one of the band's most adventurous and experimental albums yet. (10/03/2007)

Bat for Lashes

Not so very long ago, Natasha Kahn began having very vivid dreams. When she awoke one morning she asked herself who wrote the song she heard in her dream? She realized she had written the entire song in her sleep. She continued to apply the things she was dreaming, layering both delicate and bombastic elements together to create the album Fur And Gold. (10/03/2007)

Suzanne Vega

Beauty & Crime is Suzanne Vega's first studio album in six years. It is also her debut release on Blue Note Records, and for fans that have grown up with Suzanne it's a revealing look into her evolution as a singer and songwriter. (10/02/2007)

Olu Dara

He got his start playing avant-garde jazz in the 1960s, but Olu Dara has finally developed his own style of West African jazz-meets-blues-meets-groove. His musical talent rubbed off on his son, the well-known rap artist Nas. (10/01/2007)

Ulrich Schnaus

Some bands don't like to be categorized as "shoegazer" music. Ulrich Schnaus takes it as a complement to be compared to artists such as My Bloody Valentine. (10/01/2007)

Features run on the Current from October 1 to December 31, 2007

'Madness in a bottle' makes a comeback

For the first time in nearly a century, absinthe is legal in the United States. That means Monday you can party like it's 1899. (12/31/2007)

Adding up the Advent season

Christmas brings tidings of comfort and joy. It also inspires people to compile a whole bunch of quirky statistics. (12/25/2007)

Communicating with Kris Kringle

Every year, the U.S. Postal Service handles more than one million letters to Santa. In Minnesota, mail addressed to Mr. Claus typically makes its way to the central post office in Minneapolis. (12/21/2007)

The life and times of Diablo Cody

Yes, she's a former stripper. But there's a lot more to Golden Globe nominee Diablo Cody than just a good backstory. (12/14/2007)

Adding up the celebrity endorsements

Movie stars and musicians, pro wrestlers and porn stars -- they're all making their presidential favorites known. (12/14/2007)

Buzz words

The New Oxford American Dictionary crowns its Word of the Year. (12/07/2007)

Shooting a documentary in a sewer

From an abandoned mental institution in Scotland to the sewer system of St. Paul, filmmaker Melody Gilbert explores the hobby of urban exploration. (12/05/2007)

Dishing with chef-at-large Anthony Bourdain

The Indiana Jones of the food world talks about his friendship with Marky Ramone and the time he spent in Cleveland with comic writer Harvey Pekar. (11/26/2007)

Body donors remembered with poetry, music and gratitude

On average, 38,000 people die each year in Minnesota. About 260 of them donate their bodies to science. Medical students at the University of Minnesota say these body donors are vital to their education. And, every year, they try to thank those who gave the gift of themselves. (11/20/2007)

Good Ol' Charles Schulz

A new biography examines the life of the man who created Charlie Brown and Snoopy and Pig Pen. (11/16/2007)

Iowa caucuses by the numbers

The Iowa caucuses are the first real test for the 2008 presidential candidates. For the state's residents, all the campaign stops and candidate fundraisers really add up. (11/15/2007)

Are 'climate change' and 'global warming' interchangeable?

How do the terms we use affect the way we view the state of the environment? (11/09/2007)

Is commercialization necessary for a breast cancer cure?

Oreos sport pink "creme" filling. NASCAR fans cheer a pink car across the finish line. Store shelves are stocked with pink fondue sets and pink pinking shears. It must be Breast Cancer Awareness Month. (10/24/2007)

Writer: 'Environmentalism must die '

The so-called bad boy of environmentalism calls for an end to the green movement's messages of doom and gloom. (10/18/2007)

Author Steve Almond shares his obsessions

From Kurt Vonnegut to candy to depression, Steve Almond talks about it all. (10/11/2007)

The day the music (industry) died?

Radiohead offers music lovers a name-your-own-price payment plan. What kind of message is the band trying to send? (10/10/2007)

Radiohead pricetag is up to you

Radiohead's new album is available for \$15. Or \$3.50. Or even 7 cents. Basically, it's yours for whatever you choose to pay. (10/04/2007)

Supreme Court revs up

Pornography, cocaine and death. Such things could easily make the list of top power-ballad themes. Coincidentally, they're also some of the topics the Supreme Court will be throwing around this session. (10/01/2007)

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July-September 2007
The Current

THE CURRENT'S IN-STUDIO INTERVIEWS 7/1/07-9/30-07

Oakley Hall

They sound like could have released an album in 1987 when indie rock was still called "college rock." Despite the slight twang in their sound, they hail (doesn't everyone?) from Brooklyn. (9/28/07)

The Brunettes

The kiwi boy-girl pop group have been around for a few years in their native land, but only had a full-blown U.S. release this year. (9/24/07)

Peter, Bjorn and John

The Swedish group has a huge hit this year, but have also managed to follow that up with strong pop songs. They joined us live for the second time. (9/24/07)

Ani DiFranco

Even with a successful music career, thriving record label, and a new baby, the acoustic folk songstress Ani DiFranco continues to tour non-stop. (09/21/2007)

Cinematic Orchestra

The Cinematic Orchestra founder Jason has a background playing bass, guitar, and DJing. His head was filled with ideas and influences, such as his love of jazz bass players, rhythm sections. and film soundtracks. He put these passions together and created and sound and style all his own. (09/21/2007)

The National

Described as darkly melodic, The National originated in Cincinnati, but came together in Brooklyn. They have recently released Boxer, their follow-up to their 2005 release Alligator. (09/20/2007)

The Teenage Prayers

With musical influences such as David Bowie, Solomon Burke, Iggy Pop, Otis Redding, and the Clark sisters, you realize their sound is most definitely soulful rock. The Teenage Prayers formed in New York City in 2001 and their style quickly caught the ear of Solomon Burke who produced the final track on their debut record, Ten Songs. (09/20/2007)

Jamie T

He's been nominated for the Mercury Prize but doesn't want music to be a competition. He makes mixed tapes and hands them out at shows. London, England's Jamie T is in town with his band The Pacemakers for a show at the 7th Street Entry. (09/19/2007)

Jevetta Steele

Several years ago, Jevetta Steele wrote and starred in a production called "Two Queens One Castle." The show is based upon her recovery from a destructive love triangle in her marriage. The show was a hit and played in other theaters around the country. (09/19/2007)

They Might Be Giants

Brooklyn's They Might Be Giants are known for their innovative ways of connecting with their audience - from a phone answering machine to podcasts. Mark Wheat spoke with TMBG before their show at First Avenue about working on their new album, *The Else*, with the Dust Brothers as well as a song they wrote about First Avenue. (09/17/2007)

The Sea and Cake

The Sea and Cake have reunited after four years of working on solo projects and with other groups. The Chicago group formed in 1993 after members gained some attention performing in popular indie bands of the time, such as The Coctails and Gastr Del Sol. (09/15/2007)

Fog

Local noise rockers Fog have worked with bands like Dntel and Low. They've also given themselves the task of "Keeping Indie Rock Weird." They stopped by The Current studios to chat with host Jill Riley about the local scene and Danny Sigelman, another Current host, calling them freaks. (09/13/2007)

Rilo Kiley

Returning for for their first full length following their individual solo projects - The Elected and The Watson Twins - Rilo Kiley is touring to support their latest album, "Under the Blacklight." (09/13/2007)

Pete Yorn

Pete Yorn loves to make music. Not only is he a musician, but a true music fan. When he's not making records and touring, he runs a music label called Trampoline Records. (09/10/2007)

VHS or Beta

Craig Pfunder and Mike McGill of the Louisville, Kentucky, band VHS or Beta are touring in support of their latest album, "Bring on the Comets." They admit that their new album is a bit of a musical departure from their earlier dance-influenced albums. (09/06/2007)

Roma di Luna

Alexei and Channy Moon Casselle met in high school, dated, went their separate ways, stayed in touch, and now are married and living in Minneapolis. They also come from various musical backgrounds: classical, bluegrass and hip-hop.

(09/06/2007)

David Bazan

The lead singer of Pedro the Lion is currently touring in support of his latest solo effort "Fewer Moving Parts." He talked about his other solo projects, touring with Vic Chestnut, and working while wearing pajamas. (09/05/2007)

Ben Lee

Much to his own surprise, more and more people are being exposed to Ben Lee's music. On the eve of the release of sixth solo effort, Ripe, the former Noise Addict stopped by on "day one" of a very brief, five-city promotional tour. (08/28/2007)

Son Volt and Jay Farrar

Son Volt has a new album and it's called The Search. The album originally had twenty two tracks but was pared down to fourteen, however the band plans to release a limited edition of The Search album in the near future, containing all twenty two tracks. (08/14/2007)

The Rentals

Songs performed: "Last Romantic Day," "Life Without A Brain," and "Sweetness & Tenderness." (08/11/2007)

Patti Smith

Poet; artist; punk rocker; activist and mother. These are all words we use to describe the legendary Patti Smith. (08/07/2007)

Laurie Lewis

Growing up in Berkeley, California wasn't easy for Laurie Lewis. She was 14 when she went to hear The Byrds, but it was the opening act that changed her life. The Dillards, specifically the banjo playing of Doug Dillard, made Laurie want to take lessons. (08/06/2007)

The Biddies

Claudia Schmidt, Kitty Donohoe and Jan Krist are Michigan-based singer/songwriters with decades of experience as independent musicians. (08/04/2007)

Chow Nasty

Songs performed: "Ungawa," "Hey, Hot Tomato," and "Sugartooth." (08/02/2007)

The Cribs

The Cribs have a new album out entitled "Men's Needs, Women's Needs, Whatever." While the trio of brothers, the older of which are twins, didn't elaborate on those needs, they did talk with Mary Lucia about recording their latest release with Alex Kapranos of Franz Ferdinand at Bryan Adam's studios in Vancouver, Canada.

(08/02/2007)

Dappled Cities

Their new album Granddance was released stateside less than two months ago, and it's garnering raves all through the indie media. The album was produced by Jim Fairchild and during their interview they talked about their friendship with him and how the title of their album is an homage to his former band, Granddaddy.

(07/31/2007)

Blitzen Trapper

Oregon-based Blitzen Trapper is on track to win over new fans with their latest CD "Wild Mountain Nation" which was released on June 12, 2007. (07/30/2007)

Jason Isbell

Since leaving the Drive By Truckers, Jason Isbell has all ready made a name for himself as a solo artist. Even before he left the Truckers, he was recording his solo album. Sirens of the Ditch oozes with the sounds of Muscle Shoals, where Jason calls home when he's not on the road. (07/29/2007)

Jenny Dalton

Pianist and singer Jenny Dalton has been writing original piano songs since she was about eight years old. She has never had any formal training and cannot read music, but that doesn't stop her from writing soulful and intimate songs. (07/27/2007)

St. Vincent

Singer/multi-instrumentalist Annie Clark said she came up with the name St. Vincent to put no limitations on what she could do. She said with a name like St. Vincent, the band could be "expandable and could include other people and really be a whole entity." (07/24/2007)

Maximo Park

Newcastle's Maximo Park, touring the U.S. in support of the new album, "Our Earthly Pleasures," aimed to craft a warmer sound than that on the Mercury Prize-nominated debut. Mary Lucia talked with Paul Smith about karaoke and having an original sound. (07/17/2007)

The Alarmists

At the 2007 Minnesota Music Awards, The Alarmists were declared the best new band. They're now releasing "The Ghost and the Hired Gun" and hope to solidify their reputation. (07/16/2007)

The Redwalls

The Redwalls got dropped by their record label earlier this year after a corporate reshuffle. Luckily, the company gave them control of the album they recorded last year and the band carried on. (07/13/2007)

Robbers on High Street

New York's Robbers on High Street stopped by about dining adventures at South by Southwest, who gets to be in control of the music while riding in the tour van, and their love of bowling in the Twin Cities. (07/13/2007)

Claudia Russell

Claudia Russell admits to once having a "love/hate" relationship with California, until she found a home in Berkeley. But she absolutely loves the midwest and returns here annually to see Minnesota and Wisconsin in the summertime. She and her husband, Bruce Kaplan, visited us over a year ago when Claudia had a bad head cold. So she's back to do a "make good" performance. (07/12/2007)

Jesca Hoop

It wasn't all that long ago that Jesca Hoop left her Mormon family behind and set off on her own to pursue her musical career. (07/10/2007)

Dan Deacon and Videhippos

Dan Deacon has been getting a lot of attention lately. The Baltimore City paper has named him Best Solo Performer for the past two years. Pitchfork gave the new album, Spiderman Of The Rings, an 8.7 and named the album the Best New Music of May. (07/03/2007)

Nomo

The band Nomo calls Ann Arbor home, but their heart is on another continent. They play a blend of jazz, funk, and African rhythms. While most of the members study music at the University of Michigan, the band doesn't turn out high-minded compositions meant for the academy. They just want to get a party started. (07/02/2007)

Jimmy LaFave

Austin, TX has loads of good songwriters. To be good songwriter them and to be making a living at it puts you in pretty good company. Jimmy LaFave is there. (07/02/2007)

INTERVIEWS AND FEATURES ON THE CURRENT 7/1/07-9/30/07

Citizens offer two cents' worth on \$234-million bridge

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has announced who will be rebuilding the 35W bridge. But that doesn't mean the public is done offering opinions on the structure.

How Target became cool

It's one of the mysteries of modern life. You run into Target for aluminum foil and floor cleaner. Yet you emerge with an art deco toaster and a pair of red lacquer bar stools.

MORE FEATURES FROM THE CURRENT

First Avenue's Right Hand Man

Conrad Sverkerson - stage manager and long-standing icon of the First Avenue nightclub - received a Sound Unseen Festival Artist of Distinction at 2007's multimedia event.

A 'reveille' for the Local Music Scene

A band of local music writers have gathered together to start a new magazine, "Reveille." Andrea Myers is one of those founders. She joined Mary Lucia at Gluek's to explain why they thought there was a need for a new place to read about music.

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4/1/2007-6/30/2007

In-studio sessions

Chris Dorn

Mary Lucia was joined at Gluek's by the lead singer of the Beatifics, Chris Dorn. He played two songs and they chatted about the Spice Girls and why it's taking him so long to put out a new record. (06/28/2007)

Sarah Borges & The Broken Singles

Sarah Borges & The Broken Singles began with the intention of just some friends getting together on Sunday afternoons to drink some beer and play some cover songs. (06/28/2007)

Monroe Crossing

Monroe Crossing does it the old-fashioned way: by standing around one microphone, leaning in and backing off when they have to balance the overall sound of the five instruments and vocal harmonies. It's a dance they make about 150 times a year in concerts all over the Midwest. (06/28/2007)

White Light Riot

Minneapolis quartet White Light Riot secluded themselves in Cannon Falls to record their new album "Atomism." They weren't going for a stripped down, indie-sound. They say they put a lot of work into the album and that they hope it sounds like it. (06/25/2007)

The Boggs

The word "musical collective" gets thrown around quite a bit these days, but this Brooklyn-based outfit really fits the bill. The only current band member who played on the new album Forts was the band's founder, Jason Friedman. Over the years members of the bands Enon, Liars, Au Revoir Simone, and others have rotated in and out of the band. The current line-up is a five-piece, including two drummers. (06/25/2007)

Xavier Rudd

On his newest CD, "White Moth," Australian Xavier Rudd charts his spiritual journey over the past few years. On this release, he pays respect to Australia's indigenous people, and features guest vocals from Aboriginal singers. (06/20/2007)

Clearwater Hot Club

Twenty-two year old Guitarist Sam Miltich is in the process of releasing his third album. He and his father Matthew formed the Clearwater Hot Club some years ago to play the music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grapelli. (06/20/2007)

Brother Ali

Looking at a list of some of Brother Ali's influences lets you know right off how versatile this brother can be. With artists like KRS One, Spoonie Gee, Muddy Waters, Forest Whitaker, Public Enemy, Rakim, Huey Newton, Robert DeNiro, and Slug mentioned, you can see that he gets his inspiration from more than music. (06/19/2007)

Ryan Adams

Ryan Adams gets a bad rap. It's been years since the well publicized "Summer of '69" on-stage meltdown and the famous voice mail rant. He's been referred to as "difficult" by many. (06/19/2007)

Willy Mason

Do you tell your kids to go directly to college after high school, or do you tell them to take a year off and figure out their life? Maybe you're like Willy Mason: he was planning to go to college, but ended up touring at age 17. (06/19/2007)

Fountains of Wayne

Fountains of Wayne tells stories with their songs. They can make the Tappan Zee Bridge seem romantic and the Department of Motor Vehicles worth chronicling. They regale us with more tales of ordinary slobs like you and me set to a perfect pop melodies. (06/13/2007)

The Pipettes

The group from England came together in 2004 and has been called the missing link between Phil Spector and modern day popular music. (06/08/2007)

Madeleine Peyroux

Madeleine Peyroux has been recording for over a decade, but most people only got to know her when she released her second album "Careless Love" in 2004. (06/08/2007)

Great Northern

The music of Los Angeles-based Great Northern has been called memorably melodic, consisting of layered melodies of chimes, piano, keyboard, and both acoustic and electric guitars. (06/07/2007)

Albert Hammond, Jr.

Albert Hammond Jr. was born in Los Angeles California. As a member of the indie-rock band The Strokes, he plays lead and rhythm guitar. He released his solo record, "Yours To Keep" in the UK in 2006 and in North America in 2007. (06/07/2007)

Sound Team

It was about a year ago that Sound Team visited the Current studios. They have been touring as a five piece band for a little over two years now. (06/07/2007)

The Pines

The Pines now call Minneapolis home, but the both David Huckfeldt and Benson Ramsey hail from Iowa. The duo blend folk, blues, and country and share the singing and songwriting duties on their Red House Records debut "Sparrow in the Bell." (06/06/2007)

Johnette Napolitano

You would probably know the name Johnette Napolitano from her work as the frontwoman of the band Concrete Blonde. These days she's just as busy as ever, but in a much more "under the radar" way. (06/06/2007)

The Clientele

If you combined the Zombies with Galaxie 500, you'd have The Clientele. In fact, there was some discussion of Galaxie 500's frontman Dean Wareham during their visit. (06/01/2007)

Eleni Mandell

Eleni Mandell's debut album Fishbone was released in 1999 to rave reviews including being named best local singer by the Los Angeles Magazine and best song writer by the Los Angeles Weekly. (06/01/2007)

The Heavenly States

The Heavenly States consist of Ted Nesselth, Jeremy Gagon, Genevieve Gagon, and Mark Christianson. They've recorded two full length albums, as well as the 3 song single King Epiphany I, II and Monument. (05/30/2007)

Romantica

The songs performed by Romantica frontman and Belfast-native Ben Kyle retain a certain gravity, but yet they span multiple genres and influences. Their sound has been compared to Wilco, Ryan Adams, and Damien Rice among others. (05/30/2007)

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

The seed for Black Rebel Motorcycle Club were planted back in 1995 when Robert Turner and Peter Hayes met while at high school in San Francisco. After playing in various bands, the duo finally started playing together and added the talents of drummer Nick Jago in 1998. (05/30/2007)

Charlie Parr

The new album from Bluesman Charlie Parr was recorded in his neighbor's garage - birds chirping, water on the floor, kids running by - and he feels that the setting allowed him to perform like he wanted. (05/30/2007)

Illinois

With a band named Illinois, you'd expect them to be from Chicago, Rockford or Springfield but that's not the case. They're actually from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The band is named after Chris Archibald's great grandfather. (05/24/2007)

A Fine Frenzy

Alison Sudol, Stephen, and Daxx took the inspiration for their band name from A Midsummer Night's Dream. They are A Fine Frenzy and the name certainly seems to fit them. (05/24/2007)

Rachel Ries

When we last met our hero she had driven all night to join us in Jackson for our live show at the Historic State Theater last summer. (05/24/2007)

The Last Town Chorus

The sound of The Last Town Chorus can be described by a room full of people and each individual will undoubtedly have their own take on it. The lap steel guitar adds another layer of melody to their refreshing sound. (05/24/2007)

Electrelane

Electrelane have been together for a decade, but Verity Susman says the quartet hasn't settled into a comfortable pattern. They still find making music challenging. (05/23/2007)

Brandi Carlile

Brandi Carlile grew up in a musical family in a small town outside of Seattle. Her naturally wonderful singing voice must have made it easy to choose a career in music. She could have slid by using just those pipes, but she worked hard to teach herself piano, guitar, how to layer harmonies with other singers and to write songs. (05/18/2007)

Digitata

Local electro-rockers, Digitata warned us about the dangers of drinking 3.2 beer during the recording process. They still managed to turn out a solid record. (05/17/2007)

Au Revoir Simone

Erika Foster and Annie Hart came together as the result of a long train ride home to NYC when they found they shared the same passion to start an all-keyboard band. (05/16/2007)

Umbrella Sequence

While the Minneapolis-based Umbrella Sequence utilize the basic guitar/drums/vocals of their indie-rock peers, they also use a smattering of laptops, drum machines, and an old-school Nintendo Gameboy to achieve their distinctive sound. (05/10/2007)

Arctic Monkeys

After Alex Turner and Jamie Cook received guitars for Christmas, they made practicing a full time obsession. All of that practicing paid off when the band inked their first recording deal with the label Domino in the spring of 2004. (05/08/2007)

M. Ward

Early in his career M. Ward had hoped to go to Europe "on someone else's dime." He's had that opportunity a few times and is about to do it again while touring in support of Norah Jones. (05/08/2007)

Cliff Eberhardt

Cliff Eberhardt was on the verge of ending his career after recovering from a serious car accident, but the songs kept coming and led him to record another album for Red House Records. (05/07/2007)

The Ponys

When The Ponys started out in 2000 they - like many other bands at the time - were labeled "garage rock." The Chicago four-piece no longer fit under that simple description, as they've expanded their live and studio sound beyond that simple moniker. (05/04/2007)

Susan Werner

Susan Werner brings to her music a background in classical, jazz, folk and rock music. She's no stranger to several instruments and has been known to launch into an aria during her folk concert tours. (05/02/2007)

Air

In the 9 years since Air's "Moon Safari" became one of electronic music's most celebrated recordings - while simultaneously helping to redefine the genre itself - the duo of Jean-Benoit Dunckel and Nicolas Godin have emerged as increasingly detail-oriented soundscapers, and sought-after collaborators as well. (05/02/2007)

Joseph Arthur

Joseph Arthur has released two albums in quick succession. In 2006, he released "Nuclear Daydream," and "Let's Just Be" hit stores in April 2007. After years as a solo artist, he's now recording and touring with his band, the Lonely Astronauts. (04/27/2007)

The Current live at Gluek's

Mary Lucia interviewed writer Martin Keller, author of Music Legends: A Rewind on the Minnesota Music Scene, and musician Dan Murphy, member of the bands Soul Asylum and Golden Smog. (04/26/2007)

Love of Diagrams

Melbourne's Love of Diagrams sound like they emerged from the early '80s. They've got a choppy, call-and-response sound similar to Mission of Burma. (04/26/2007)

Vieux Farka Toure

Vieux Farka Toure's father, like many parents before him, did not want his son to become a musician. And like many children before him, Vieux ignored his father's wishes and took up the guitar. The added little twist to this timeless tale is that Vieux's father was Ali Farka Toure, one of the most celebrated Malian musicians of all time. (04/25/2007)

Charlie Maguire

Charlie Maguire trusts his friends, and depends on them for input. That's just what he did in his new album, "Good Eye Blind". His long-time friend and producer Steve Wiese helped him shape his group of new songs, hired just the right musicians and recorded the album at Creation Studios in Minneapolis. (04/25/2007)

Gang Font

It's a band that rocks the proverbial boat with a punk-ish gait supplanted by youthful vigor. On this outing, bassist Greg Norton (Husker Du), keyboardist Craig Taborn, drummer Dave King (Bad Plus), and bassist/guitarist Eric Fratzke (Happy Apple) pursue unbalanced injections of prog-rock, topped-off with angst-ridden licks, pounding beats and more. (04/25/2007)

White Rabbits

The White Rabbits claim to play honky-tonk calypso. They don't really; they sound more like an indie-rock band crossed with carousel music. (04/24/2007)

The Little Ones

The Little Ones have a formula for their band. It's called Uncle Lee's Rule of Feet. If a song makes you move your feet (and maybe even dance), they're doing the right thing. (04/22/2007)

Astrid Swan

Finnish multi-instrumentalist Astrid Swan has played with Jose Gonzalez, Mew, Loney Dear, Jamie Cullum, and Lou Barlow. Astrid likes to point out that none of these people look or sound like her. (04/20/2007)

What Made Milwaukee Famous

The music of What Made Milwaukee Famous can go from loud to soft to sensitive to detached so smoothly, there's always a sense of both familiarity and surprise for the listener. (04/19/2007)

The Klaxons perform in studio

Eighteen months ago James Righton was an English teacher. He and a couple of friends began playing and recording together as Klaxon. They put out their first single just over a year ago. While there was a bit of a buzz about the band, they were relatively unknown. (04/18/2007)

The Frames

The lead singer of The Frames, Glen Hansard, started his career as a busker in Dublin. In 1990, he gathered together a bunch of musicians he knew from the streets and formed the band. After seventeen years of hard work, The Frames are one of the most popular bands in their native Ireland. (04/17/2007)

Neal and Leandra

It's been twenty years since Neal and Leandra starting singing together. Since then, they've released several recordings, got married, started a family and have made a career out of their music and engaging personalities. (04/17/2007)

Carrie Rodriguez

Always a bridesmaid, never a bride? Not anymore for Carrie Rodriguez. For years, she was a back-up vocalist and fiddle player in the Austin, Texas scene. Now, she's touring to support her new solo album, "Seven Angels on a Bicycle". (04/12/2007)

Owen

Sometimes after playing in seven bands in a decade, a guy just wants to spend some time alone. At least, Mike Kinsella did. He's was in Cap'n Jazz, Joan of Arc, and American Football, but he spends his time performing as Owen now. (04/05/2007)

Features from the Current 4/1/2007-6/30/2007

The art of death

Looking good when you're dead isn't easy. Luckily there are people out there who can help. (05/21/2007)

Bringing some bang to the Capitol

How do you make yourself heard at the state Capitol? Try firing a cannon. (05/03/2007)

Smoking bans have come and gone

Smoking bans are nothing new. People have been debating the right to light up since the day European explorers returned from the New World with tobacco. (04/27/2007)

The pomegranate hits the peak of popularity

How did the pomegranate go from an ancient symbol of fertility to the key ingredient in a Starbucks Frappuccino? (04/20/2007)

Pigeons: friend or foe?

Cities across the country are looking for ways to curb their pigeon populations. Do the birds deserve to be run out of town or are they simply victims of bad press? (04/16/2007)

Corn hits the catwalk

When it comes to fashion, knits and denim are so last year. These days it's all about corn and bamboo. (04/13/2007)

Who put the bunny in Easter?

Here comes Peter Cottontail. But why? (04/06/2007)

Without germs, we're nothing

Sure, bacteria can make us sick. But they also make us who we are. And we couldn't live without them. (04/04/2007)

Secret, secret, I've got a secret

The world gets a glimpse into just what the CIA was up to in decades past. And it isn't pretty. (06/29/2007)

Pride is brought to you by...

These days everyone from Anheuser-Busch to Delta Airlines is reaching out to gay and lesbian consumers. But it wasn't long ago that businesses thought twice about flying their logos alongside the rainbow flag. (06/26/2007)

Remembering refugees

There are an estimated 40 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide. That's the entire population of Minnesota -- times 8. (06/20/2007)

Fatherhood in the wild

In the animal world, being a good dad means incubating fertilized eggs in your mouth for two months or building a nest from vegetation and the secretions of your own kidneys.

(06/18/2007)

Bugs in the system

Tuberculosis patient Andrew Speaker is the first person ordered into isolation by the federal government in over forty years. His case has returned the word "quarantine" to our public vocabulary. (06/05/2007)

Rockin' to the White House

Presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton is asking Americans to choose her campaign song. How do today's political anthems compare to those of past candidates? (06/01/2007)

Death gets personal

They're kind of like a book group. But instead of discussing the latest bestsellers, these Twin Cities women talk about living wills and cremation, and the music selections they'd like at their funerals. (05/26/2007)

Death Becomes Us

The rituals of death tell us a lot about the living. What do our customs say about our society? And how do our practices shape the way we view our final fate? (05/21/2007)

Death: have it your way

Some say we're all equal in death. Clearly, those people don't realize how personalized the funeral industry has become. (05/21/2007)

Graveyard shifts

They've been called cities of the silent. But cemeteries actually tell us a lot about society. (05/21/2007)

How embalming changed death

Embalming enables the deceased to look as good in death as they did in life. And that's completely altered the scope of the funeral industry. (05/21/2007)

Diversity in Death

The rituals of death vary greatly from one religion to another, one culture to the next. Here is a small sampling of the beliefs that help guide the way people deal with the deceased. (05/21/2007)

Sleep with the fishes - and other options for your loved ones

Memorial reefs. Fireworks shows. Diamond rings. These days, there are some pretty interesting places to rest in peace. (05/21/2007)

**Quarterly Programming Report
In-Studio Performances and Interviews on The Current
January – March 2007**

Thomas Dybdahl

Thomas Dybdahl is a 27-year old singer/songwriter from Norway. He's released four albums in Europe as a solo artist, one album with another band called The National Bank, and just signed a deal for the US, Canada, and France with Recall Records. (03/31/2007)

Low

Low is now a teenager. The Duluth band formed in 1994. Drummer Mimi Parker and guitarist Alan Sparhawk go back even farther than that - the spouses met in elementary school. Matt Livingston - the third bassist in their history - rounds out the group. (03/30/2007)

The Current live from Glueks

Mary Lucia hosted a live broadcast from Gluek's in downtown Minneapolis where she talked with reporter Lisa Ling, local author Dennis Cass, and singer/songwriter Chris Koza. (03/28/2007)

Cloud Cult

Cloud Cult, the Minnesota band with an extremely devoted national following, have a new album coming out. It's called The Meaning of 8. The band are famed for their live shows, which mix their music with videos, light shows and even have a couple of painters on stage who create during concerts. (03/27/2007)

Tom Feldmann

One wouldn't guess Tom Feldmann grew up in the Midwest after hearing his latest CD, and that's exactly the sound he was aiming for. (03/27/2007)

Essie Jain

Essie Jain moved to New York City from England two weeks before September 11, 2001. Despite her parents worries, Jain stuck it out and has prospered in her new hometown. The opera-trained singer-songwriter doesn't sound very opera-y, but credits her two years of study for teaching how to control her voice. She sounds thrilled to have her first album out in the world. (03/23/2007)

Birdmonster

It's rare that the phrase "punk-influenced" is used to describe a band that includes a banjo, melodica, and cello. (03/23/2007)

SSM

SSM are a trio from Detroit that have roots in garage rock, punk, and even a little bit of new wave and prog rock. It's a catchy, buzzy mix. (03/21/2007)

Long Winters

The Seattle based band has gone through quite a few members since their 2001 debut, but one thing remains consistent - their dynamic sound. (03/21/2007)

Mando Diao

Mando Diao's plan when they formed was to save rock n' roll. The Swedish group claim to believe their recordings are better than anything by The Who, The Kinks, or The Small Faces. (03/16/2007)

RJD2

On his new album The Third Hand, RJD2 completely reinvents his sound. He's no longer pure hip-hop. He's made a pop record. It was written, arranged, produced and performed entirely by RJD2, born Ramble John "RJ" Krohn. There's not a sample on an album from a man famed for his creative use of layered samples. (03/16/2007)

Bonde Do Role

Bonde Do Role hail from Curitiba, Brazil. They play what is alternately known as baile funk, favela funk or funk carioca. Marina, the vocalist for the group, raps over a mish-mash of rapid beats and samples. It's basically dance music meant for blasting at parties and clubs. Their American debut is Gasolina. (03/16/2007)

Andrew Bird

Whistle once on an album and you may be doomed to be tagged as a whistler forever. Luckily for Andrew Bird, famed in the indie rock world for his whistling, might be able to pass the torch to whistlers-du-jour Peter Bjorn and John. (03/16/2007)

Tom Morello

After years being a member - an outspoken member - of big bands such as Audioslave and Rage Against the Machine, Tom Morello is stepping out on his own. (03/16/2007)

Fujiya & Miyagi

There are great rock songs with meaningful lyrics that touch you and change your life. Fujiya & Miyagi don't write those kind of songs. (03/16/2007)

Antibalas

Nigerian musician Fela Kuti invented Afro-beat, the blend of jazz, funk and traditional African music that was the introduction to "world" music for many Americans. Antibalas, a Brooklyn-based collective of about 17 musicians, carry on Fela's legacy of making danceable, politically aware songs. (03/16/2007)

EL-P

You have to be a rapper comfortable with yourself to have guests such as Trent Reznor and Cat Power on your CD. EL-P aka El-Producto obviously doesn't feel he needs to prove his credibility. (03/15/2007)

Sondre Lerche

Sondre Lerche claims his latest album, Phantom Punch, is "an Orange Juice meets Fleetwood Mac & My Bloody Valentine meets Gilberto Gil & Os Mutantes meets early Elvis Costello & Prefab Sprout & XTC meets Thomas Dolby meets Steely Dan circa Katy Lied, kind of thing." (03/15/2007)

Brother Ali

Brother Ali's second full album The Undisputed Truth will be released in April, 2007. The Minneapolis rapper has been through some hard times in the past few years. He and his wife split. They fought over their son. Ali was homeless for a spell. (03/15/2007)

Money Mark

Mark Ramos-Nishita performs under the moniker Money Mark. He has a career that any musician would envy. He tours with the Beastie Boys as a keyboardist, writes music for films, collaborates with the likes of Yoko One and Beck, and fronts his own projects. (03/15/2007)

The Sights

Eddie Baranek and organist-bassist Bobby Emmett come from Detroit and play swaggering garage rock. They've been touring with their self-titled album that includes the single "Just Got Robbed," which sounds like a staple of classic rock stations even though it was written in 2005. (03/15/2007)

Young Knives

Few bands get described as "tweedy," but that's one of the adjectives used to describe the sound of Henry Darnall, Oliver Askew, and Thomas Darnall (aka House of Lords). (03/15/2007)

Prototypes

Since forming in 2003, Gallic rockers Prototypes have already landed a top-ten single in France and enlivened both underground clubs and contemporary European art scenes with their punchy electronic rock. (03/15/2007)

Peter Bjorn and John

The sentence that follows is grammatically correct, it's just that the Swedish trio Peter Bjorn and John don't like commas. The group formed in Stockholm in 1999, but only really broke out with their third album and the single "Young Folks" which has been a hit in Australia, the UK, their home country and, of course, on YouTube. (03/15/2007)

Badly Drawn Boy

Mercury Music Prize winner Damon Gough chose his stage name from the title character in the British television show Sam and his Magic Ball. (03/11/2007)

The Ditty Bops

The Ditty Bops are a band from Los Angeles with their hearts in the past. They play a blend of gypsy jazz, bluegrass, folk and a little bit of the great American musical.

(03/09/2007)

Chuck Klosterman

Chuck Klosterman and Tapes n' Tapes were Mary Lucia's guest for The Current Fakebook. Klosterman is a writer and cultural critic. Tapes n' Tapes are the Minneapolis music scene darlings who exploded nationally and internationally in 2006. (03/05/2007)

Aqualung

Matt Hales has come a long way from playing in a London-based Police cover band in the late 80s. He now leads Aqualung, a project he says isn't a band, but rather the name he's decided to give the music he's been making since 2002. (03/02/2007)

Uncle Earl

So what's it like to have a rock star produce your folky-bluegrass album? Ask the women of Uncle Earl. They're touring right now in support of their CD, "Waterloo, Tennessee" which was produced by John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin. (03/02/2007)

Six Parts Seven

When the band Six Parts Seven was founded, they made a decision: they didn't want beautiful music ruined by poor vocals, so rather than wait for the perfect singer they decided to go instrumental. (03/01/2007)

Richard Buckner

Richard Buckner isn't afraid to take things into his own hands, whether it's songwriting or show security. (02/28/2007)

Rickie Lee Jones

In 1979, a young Rickie Lee Jones got a big taste of success from her debut self-titled album and the hit song, "Chuck E's in Love." Today, she's back on the road touring in support of her new record, "Sermon on Exposition Boulevard" and she says it was the right thing to do at the right time. (02/23/2007)

Jesse Sykes

Sometimes, a band-name just seems self-evident. Jesse Sykes woke up one day to find she'd lost her band and her marriage, and guitarist Phil Wandscher had just departed the group Whiskeytown. (02/20/2007)

Sparklehorse

The sound of Sparklehorse has been described as atmospheric, ballad-driven, and sometimes a little surreal. However, when it comes to writing a straight-forward pop song, Mark Linkous - the driving force behind Sparklehorse - feels he has to try a lot harder to make it sound interesting. (02/20/2007)

Molly Maher

Patience pays off for Molly Maher, as she feels her new album - while not her first - contains some of her best work. (02/20/2007)

Bringing Easter Parade to the stage

The Chanhassen Dinner Theatres were granted permission to take an Irving Berlin film musical and premiere a new stage musical from the 1948 film, "Easter Parade". The film starred Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. (02/14/2007)

Storyhill

Chris Cunningham and Johnny Hermanson have been playing together since high school, and this familiarity creates a chemistry that impressed both Grammy-winner Dan Wilson and Red House Records. (02/12/2007)

Kristin Hersh

Kristin Hersh has never had much for a career path, but the evolution of her music has always worked itself out. (02/08/2007)

Kevin Devine

Kevin Devine felt that there were parts of the last year he had to put behind him, and that was the impetus for his latest album "Put Your Ghost To Rest." (02/06/2007)

New Riverside Ramblers

The New Riverside Ramblers have been a big part of Minnesota's traditional Cajun music revival for years. They make regular appearances around town to promote the Louisiana music and even offer dance lessons at their shows. (02/04/2007)

Venus

Twin Cities musician Venus offers insight on everything from pet cats to ruling the world. (01/26/2007)

Diablo Cody

Writer Diablo Cody joins DJ Mary Lucia for a chat about Chihuahuas, David Letterman and selling her screenplay - the first one she ever wrote. (01/26/2007)

The question of The Good, the Bad, and the Queen

Many are calling it a "supergroup," but whatever you do, don't call it a "band." In fact, The Good, The Bad, and The Queen -- the new project from Blur frontman (and Gorillaz founder) Damon Albarn -- is apparently the name of the album, not the group itself. (01/23/2007)

Earl Greyhound

Earl Greyhound leader Matt Whyte lays out thick guitar riffs and interweaves rich resounding singing with bassist Kamara Thomas that's described as a mesmerizing vocal movement. (01/22/2007)

Vega4

It's hard to peg Vega4's national identity. They formed in London, but actually have no current members from England. (01/22/2007)

Peter Mulvey and Clive Barnes

Peter Mulvey, a product of Wisconsin and a regular performer in The Morning Show playlist, is touring the country constantly. He even books some regular gigs in Ireland where he met Clive Barnes, a respected guitarist and singer in his own right. (01/22/2007)

Chooglin'

While Chooglin' has only been around for a year, it's not as though they came out of nowhere. The members have been in the local music scene for years. (01/19/2007)

Robb Henry and Raphael Fraisse

French violinist Raphael Fraisse found a home in Minnesota with the explosion of the "hot club" music scene. (01/18/2007)

Piper's Crow

Two sets of bagpipes in one room at the same time. Sounds impossible, but the result is lovely when it is members of the Minnesota-based Celtic ensemble, Piper's Crow.

(01/17/2007)

Emily Haines

Former Metric front-woman Emily Haines wrote and recorded "Knives Don't Have Your Back" over four years in four cities and two countries. (01/13/2007)

Jeremy Messersmith

Minneapolis singer-songwriter Jeremy Messersmith claims to be a hermit. Indeed, he's probably not exaggerating; although he moved to Minnesota in 1999, he only made it to the 7th Street Entry for the first time in 2007. (01/04/2007)

Features on The Current

Navigating the labyrinth of liquor laws

Minnesotans may not be able to buy wine in grocery stores. But at least they're allowed to swallow the Shiraz and Chardonnay at wine tastings -- unlike the residents of Utah.

(03/28/2007)

Red, white, blue and American-made

Minnesotans buy cars from Japan, clothes from Bangladesh, and salmon from Switzerland. But it's the sale of foreign-made flags that seems to have grabbed the attention of state lawmakers. (03/26/2007)

What a difference 1,461 days make

This week marks the fourth anniversary of the Iraq war. What do four years of fighting really add up to? (03/19/2007)

Who benefits from daylight saving time?

Extending daylight saving time was promoted as a way for the nation to save energy. But some say our extra hours of sunshine are really fueling the golf industry and the companies who make candy. (03/09/2007)

Artist puts a face on crime

Some artists like to focus on birds and flowers. Others prefer classic cityscapes. Marcia Cummings spends her days drawing pictures of rapists and murderers. (03/07/2007)

March brings holiday madness

March is a month of Shamrock Shakes and Lent-inspired fish fries. But it's also a time to celebrate scrapbooking, eye donation and frozen food. (03/01/2007)

Etiquette classes are all the rage

What's the proper way to spit out food you find too repulsive to swallow? That's just one of the many questions answered in a popular Twin Cities etiquette class. (02/28/2007)

Another day, another dollar

The government wants Americans to embrace its new dollar coins. Would a more creative design result in more bang for the buck? (02/23/2007)

Bill seeks to regulate body piercing

Attention Minnesota minors: Now might be your last chance to get that tongue piercing you've been wanting. (02/22/2007)

Presidential race heating up at the bookstore

Bookshelves across the country are stocked with the writings of White House wannabes. Is it possible to be a viable presidential candidate these days without being a published author? (02/05/2007)

New system will measure killing power of bird flu

We have categories to help us gauge the destructiveness of hurricanes. And we have an index that tells us if our body mass is too massive. Now we have a system to rate the killing power of bird flu outbreaks. (02/02/2007)

Children raised on war

This week's news from Iraq focused in on deadly attacks at public schools. Unfortunately, such violence isn't a new thing for the country's children. (01/31/2007)

City Pages: The Next Generation

What sounds like a simple change in staffing could have big repercussions. (01/24/2007)

Male like me

Norah Vincent wanted to know what it really feels like to be a man. So she decided to become one -- at least temporarily. (01/24/2007)

Drink me, lose weight

Coca-Cola and Nestle have come up with a beverage that promises to burn more calories than it contains. Is the newest Coke product the real thing? (01/18/2007)

Minnesota tops the lists

Minnesotans are first in everything from administering flu shots to consuming marshmallow Peeps. And they're more than happy to talk about their high rankings. (01/16/2007)

Bringin' down the house

What happens to the world's largest gingerbread house once all the pictures are taken and the officials from the Guinness Book of World Records go home? (01/05/2007)

The session's in session

State lawmakers open the 2007 legislative session. Reporter Nikki Tundel talks with MPR political editor Mike Mulcahy about what might be in store for Minnesota and Minnesotans. (01/02/2007)