

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT
THE CURRENT
October 1 to December 31, 2008

In-studio performances on The Current

The Hopefuls

It's been over four-and-a-half years since The Hopefuls released their debut "The Fuses Refuse to Burn." Formerly named The Olympic Hopefuls until the Olympic committee protested, they've had more changes than just their name before the release of their new album, "Now Playing at the One-Seat Theater." (12/16/2008)

Longwave

With their fourth album "Secret are Sinister" under their belts, Brooklyn indie-rockers Longwave are hoping the release of this album will go better than the last. Challenges like Hurricane Katrina, a record label merger, and a canceled tour plagued the release of their previous album "There's A Fire." After some encouragement, the band decided to record another record. (12/16/2008)

Wayne Coyne brings Christmas to Mars

It's natural that the Flaming Lips' new dramatic feature film, Christmas on Mars - conceived by bandleader Wayne Coyne and billed as "a fantastical film freak-out" - should contain all of the psychedelia, drama, humor and hopefulness that fans have come to love about the band's music itself. (12/15/2008)

Golden Animals

They met in Brooklyn where the duo of guitarist Tommy Eisner and drummer Linda Beecroft created the bluesy psychedelic folk-rock of Golden Animals. After the release of their first EP in 2006, they moved to southern California for a more laidback atmosphere to write their full-length. (12/15/2008)

Dan Wilson

Minneapolis' Dan Wilson has been known as many things: frontman in Semisonic and guitarist in Trip Shakespeare, Grammy Award winner for writing The Dixie Chick's "Not Ready To Make Nice," and producer for two of Mike Doughty's albums. He's also worked with musicians like Rachael Yamagata, Mandy Moore, Jeremy Messersmith, and Jason Mraz. In 2007, Dan Wilson released a solo album, "Free Life" on Rick Rubin's American Recordings. With all of that on his musical resume, he still calls the Twin Cities home. (12/09/2008)

Ryan Adams

Ryan Adams may have left behind the confines of the "alt-country" genre long ago, but the moniker still tends to cling to him - despite having spent a fair chunk of the past decade-plus making music that has drawn from a broad and deep well of influences. (12/10/2008)

Heiruspecs

The heavy-touring Hip Hop group Heiruspecs formed in 1997 while in a high school recording arts program at St. Paul Central High School. The band is mostly known for their raw, live sound. (12/12/2008)

Tom Morello

Tom Morello is probably best known for his work with the band Rage Against The Machine. However, he takes on the moniker "The Nightwatchman" when he performs his Woody Guthrie-inspired solo work. (11/11/2008)

Krista Detor

Singer-songwriter Krista Detor has roots all over the U.S., including California, North Dakota, and her current home in Bloomington, Indiana. She's moved around a lot in her career and her touring schedule echoes that long road. She'll be doing her third European tour in 12 months in March of 2009. (12/03/2008)

Meg Hutchinson

One would think that folksingers in Boston are lining up to get gigs and trying to out-do each other in a fiercely competitive scene. But Meg Hutchinson says it's more of a family atmosphere. She's one of Red House Records' newest singer-songwriters and says the Boston scene, where she lives now, is supportive and thriving. (12/02/2008)

Calexico

Former Giant Sand members, Joey Burns and John Convertino, collaborated in 1996 and started the eclectic acoustic folk-world-rock band Calexico, named for the border town in California. (11/25/2008)

Sebastien Grainger

The name Sebastien Grainger may not be familiar, but his voice might ring a bell. As the former singer and drummer in Death from Above 1979, Grainger jump-started his solo career after the band parted ways in 2006. (11/24/2008)

John Gorka

Gorka recorded his very first album, "I Know", on the Red House label back in 1987. He then signed with Windham Hill and recorded five more albums before returning to Red House for four more. John is currently recording new material for yet another Red House recording. (11/21/2008)

Ben Sollee

Ben Sollee takes the cello way out of it's roots as a classical stringed instrument. While his music teacher gave him permission to study his "other" music, he made sure Sollee kept his nose firmly planted in the traditional cello repertoire. (11/19/2008)

The Herbaliser

The Herbaliser is a Jazz / Hip-Hop band formed in the early 1990s by Ollie Teeba and Jake Wherry. Herbaliser released a few EPs on Ninja Tune in 1994 and 1995 before releasing their debut LP, "Remedies." (11/18/2008)

Heartless Bastards

Heartless Bastards originally started as a duo in Cincinnati, featuring Erika Wennerstrom and Mike Lamping. They soon added Kevin Vaughn on drums and eventually signed with Fat Possum Records, releasing their 2005 debut CD "Stairs and Elevators" and the follow-up "All This Time" in 2006. (11/13/2008)

Eagles of Death Metal

Rock 'n Roll saved Jesse "The Devil" Hughes' life with a little help from Josh Homme, lead singer in Queens of the Stone Age and best friend to Hughes. (11/08/2008)

Blitzen Trapper

With their fourth album, Furr, under their belts, the Portland, Oregon sextet has refined their sound on their new album, which has drawn inspiration from bands like Fleet Foxes and Beach House, and have departed somewhat from their previous influences like The Grateful Dead. (11/08/2008)

Peter Adams

Peter Adams knows how to provide affordable health care to musicians and artists - work at a hospital. The Ohio native transports patients by day, but the rest of the time he plays lush, dreamy, orchestral pop reminiscent of Neutral Milk Hotel, one of his major influences. (11/07/2008)

Carrie Rodriguez

Carrie Rodriguez has branched out from her roots as "another Texas fiddle player." In her years on the road, she's grown from playing back-up fiddle to headlining her own band. She lives in New York now and is on tour with her newest album, "She Ain't Me," which includes help from songwriting partners Dan Wilson, Gary Louris and Mary Gauthier. (11/07/2008)

KaiserCartel

Don't let Courtney Kaiser and Benjamin Cartel hear you say that you can't have a duo with just drums and guitar because they'll prove you wrong. The two formed a duo - both musically and romantically - after meeting several times at different gigs. Now they live and perform as KaiserCartel. (11/05/2008)

Nikka Costa

Born into the music world, audiences have watched Nikka Costa grow through four albums, a process which challenged her to stay true to her unique, soulful sound. (10/31/2008)

Yeastayer

The music of Brooklyn's Yeasayer is an eclectic mix of rock, pop, folk, dub, Middle Eastern, and African musics. They first garnered national recognition in 2007 at the SxSW music festival and soon after, released their debut CD, "All Hour Cymbals" in October of that same year. (10/30/2008)

Friendly Fires

Although they're in their early twenties, British band and former schoolmates Friendly Fires have been playing music together for ten years. They describe their sound as a mixture of shoegazer and dance pop. (10/27/2008)

Of Montreal

Of Montreal's debut album, "Cherry Peel," was released in 1997. Since then the band has recorded a total of eight studio albums with their latest being "Skeletal Lamping" in 2008. (10/25/2008)

The Rumble Strips

The Rumble Strips are a London based band whose music has been described as a mix of rock, soul, indie, and pop. (10/23/2008)

Annuals

North Carolina's Annuals have been credited with taking down the three major music labels in six months. Ok, maybe that was that was a spoofed album review in Paste Magazine written as if it were 2050. Who says it can't happen? (10/15/2008)

Minus the Bear

While songs titled "Hey, Wanna Throw Up?" and "Lemurs, Man, Lemurs," may be what grabs your attention about Minus the Bear, the catchy and polished songwriting will keep you listening. (10/15/2008)

Alejandro Escovedo

Punk-pioneer Alejandro Escovedo has just released his ninth solo album earlier this year entitled "Real Animal." (10/14/2008)

Sonya Kitchell

Sonya Kitchell released her first CD when she was only 16 and created a storm of sorts. Critics raved, audiences cheered, and that record opened a lot of doors for the Massachusetts singer-songwriter, including a tour with legendary jazz man Herbie Hancock. (10/14/2008)

Magnetic Fields

The Magnetic Fields are a band, but in many ways they are simply the extension of Stephin Merrit. As well as a multi-instrumentalist, Merritt writes, produces, and sings their material. (10/10/2008)

The Melismatics

After winning "The Last Band Standing" competition at The Double Door in Chicago, The Melismatics got back to work and are currently touring to support their latest album "The Acid Test." (10/09/2008)

David Stoddard and Laurie McClain

Dave Stoddard says he wrote his first song on piano in kindergarten. Hearing him play, you could buy that, but knowing him, you might think he's pulling your leg. (10/09/2008)

Jamie Lidell

Jamie Lidell's mother sang professionally with different orchestras, so it's no coincidence that this guy can hold his own as a singer. After playing in the bands Subhead and Super Collider, he's released a number of solo records including his most recent "Another Day." (10/08/2008)

Aaron Espe

What does it take to break into the music industry as a singer-songwriter? It helps to have friends in the business. It also helps, a lot, to be good at your craft. Luckily, for Aaron Espe, he could check off both of those necessities. (10/07/2008)

Ray LaMontagne

After hearing Stephen Stills' "Tree Top Flyer" on the radio, Ray LaMontagne made up his mind on the spot to become a singer and musician. By the summer of 1999 he had a ten-song demo tape and a publishing deal with Chrysalis Music Publishing. His debut album "Trouble" has been referred to "quietly devastating meditations on life and love." (10/06/2008)

Ani DiFranco

In her nearly twenty years on the music scene, Ani DiFranco has become a dynamic independent force. She's touring to support her latest album, the 2008 release "Red Letter Year." (10/03/2008)

Rachael Yamagata

In 2001, after six years with Chicago funk band, Bumpus, singer/songwriter Rachael Yamagata decided to go solo. Now, one album and three EPs later, she's releasing a new double-disc album entitled, "Elephants...Teeth Sinking Into Heart." (10/03/2008)

Features run on the Current from October 1 to December 31, 2008**Morning Show Final Broadcast**

Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul, MN (12/11/2009)

A conversation with Noel Gallagher of Oasis

Oasis formed in Manchester, England, in 1993. The groups just released their eighth studio album, "Dig Out Your Soul." Steve Seel talked with Noel Gallagher about a recent fan attack and the Gallagher's fascination with guns. (11/26/2008)

Beck

Beck, whose career launched in 1994 in Los Angeles after his hit song "Loser" was played on the radio, has developed a career that continues to shape and influence music as much today as it did when he began. (10/01/2008)

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July 1 to September 30, 2008

In-studio performances

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Mates of State

A family that tours together stays together. Isn't that the saying? That's the case for the husband-wife duo of Kori Gardner and Jason Hammel that make up Mates of State, who have brought their two children on tour with them. (09/24/2008)

Jeremy Messersmith

With his much anticipated new release "The Silver City" centered around the sights, sounds, and atmosphere of Minneapolis and St. Paul, local singer/songwriter Jeremy Messersmith has the power to make you feel right at home. (09/24/2008)

The Fratellis

Glasgow natives The Fratellis enjoyed a great deal of success on their home turf with their debut "Costello Music." In 2008 The Fratellis released "Here We Stand," their sophomore effort. (09/11/2008)

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Pete Morton

It's hard to nail down a typical Pete Morton show because you get a little bit of everything. Pete admits he's a news junkie, and a lot of his material is based on current events and world politics. However, he's just as capable of misting up the eyes of the audience with a love song. (09/26/2008)

Dar Williams

Upstate New York singer-songwriter Dar Williams is out with a new CD called, "The Promised Land." She says its a new direction for her with songs that are melodic, yet simple. To achieve that sound she worked with producer Brad Wood in hopes that he would coax her into new territory. (09/23/2008)

Laura Marling

Armed with strong folk influences, an acoustic guitar, and her delicate yet growling voice, Laura Marling has made a name for herself in England, joining the ranks of Adele, Lily Allen, and Kate Nash. Her most recent release, "Alas, I Cannot Swim" was nominated for a Mercury Prize, and she's only 18 years old. (09/21/2008)

Jearlyn Steele, Jevetta Steele, and Sanford Moore

Ruby's Caberet is back in the warehouse district of Minneapolis with a new face. It's now called Ruby's at The Lab and the very first show is a reproduction of "Sisters," a play about the richness of sisterhood with or without brothers. (09/17/2008)

Abigail Washburn, Bela Fleck, Ben Sollee, and Casey Driessen

The Sparrow Quartet doesn't fit any musical molds. They could be placed into a bluegrass box just as easily as a classical box or anywhere in between. (09/16/2008)

The Walkmen

The Walkmen formed in New York City in 2000. It's been two years since the groups last album and their tribute album to Harry Nilsson. (09/15/2008)

Dan Wilson, Ann Reed, and Pert' Near Sandstone

The Morning Show broadcast live from the Minnesota State Fair with special guests Ann Reed, Dan Wilson, Pert' Near Sandstone, and the annual "Where's Eric" game. (08/23/2008)

We Are Scientists

We Are Scientists formed in Berkeley, California shortly before heading to New York City in 2001. Their name was taken from a conversation with a man at a truck-rental company. When the man asked the band if they were brothers, and they replied "No, we're scientists." (08/11/2008)

The Tannahill Weavers

The Tannahill Weavers are a Scottish band that have been playing traditional Celtic music for 40-plus years. There have been a few personnel changes over the years, but some of the members go back to the early '70s. (08/07/2008)

Bitter:Sweet

Craigslist is known as a place to sell your old couch or buy a new bike, but for the electro-trip-pop duo Bitter:Sweet, it's a place to find your bandmate. (08/05/2008)

The Ting Tings

Fresh off a lauded performance at this year's Lollapalooza, the English indie-dance-popsters, The Ting Tings, have been selling out venues across the US and are nearing the end of the first US tour here in the Twin Cities. (08/04/2008)

The Go! Team

The Go! Team is a six piece band from Brighton, England founded by Ian Parton. Their debut CD "Get It Together" was primarily a solo effort by Ian and released in 2000. In 2003 the single, "Kickstart" was released, followed by "Thunder, Lightning, Strike" in 2004, which quickly became a UK smash and nominated for a Mercury Prize. (07/30/2008)

Joshua James

This Lincoln, NE native didn't start playing the guitar seriously until he was twenty years old. After traveling through Venezuela South America and seeing another country's culture, Joshua had an eye opening experience and began to utilize what he had seen, learned and felt into inspiration for song writing. (07/23/2008)

The Hold Steady

The band The Hold Steady was formed in 2000 after vocalist/guitarist Craig Finn moved to New York City from Minneapolis. They released their debut CD "Almost Killed Me" in 2004 and it's been nonstop for the band ever since. (07/22/2008)

Cafe Accordion Orchestra

French, Italian, Mexican and American music are all parts of Cafe Accordion's repertoire, but their newest recording, "Germaine," takes the listener all over the world. (07/14/2008)

Judith Owen

Signing with a large record label has always been a career goal for most performers, but Judith Owen says it doesn't necessarily guarantee success. After a huge management shake down at Capitol Records, Owen regained the ownership of some of her songs and re-recorded them to be released on her new CD, "Mopping Up Karma." (07/03/2008)

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The Music Exchange

89.3 The Current in Minneapolis and XPN in Philadelphia are exchanging local music on the air and online in an effort to cross-pollinate two of the best music scenes in America. Every Tuesday and Thursday in Minnesota, The Current will feature on air and in the "Song of the Day" podcast a local band selected by XPN. At the same time, XPN will be introducing listeners in Philadelphia to Minnesota musicians (July 2008)

Songs From Scratch Vol. 2

You know a good song when you hear it. What you probably don't know is what went into creating that song. Songs from Scratch chronicles the songwriting process to find out what transforms a vague idea into a full-fledged tune. We gave three local musicians—Best Friends Forever, P.O.S., and Jeremy Messersmith—two weeks to write a song. We assigned them a theme ("The Wizard of Oz") and a set of lyrics (penned by Honeydogs' frontman Adam Levy) to up the difficulty level. Songs from Scratch is documenting their techniques and inspirations, as well as their challenges, to get a first-hand look at how a song comes to life. (July 2008)

Policy and a Pint: The China Tradeoff

China is rapidly emerging as a global "super-competitor," which will have a huge impact on our economy, our national security, and our quality of life right here in Minnesota. Host Steve Seel was joined by Ambassador Alan Holmer (Special Envoy for China and the Strategic Economic Dialogue) and Tony Lorusso (Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office at the Varsity Theater on Thursday July 10. (07/10/2008)

Minnesota Public Radio at the State Fair 2008

Thursday, August 21

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia.

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Friday, August 22

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia.

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Saturday, August 23

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Steve Seel

7–10 pm

Radio Free Current live broadcast with Jill Riley

At the Bandshell

Sunday, August 24

3–5 pm

The Current live broadcast with David Campbell

5 – 6 pm

The Local Show with Chris Roberts from 89.3 The Current

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Brandt Williams

Monday, August 25

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Tuesday, August 26

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Wednesday, August 27

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Thursday, August 28

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Friday, August 29

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mary Lucia

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

Saturday, August 30

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Barb Abney

7–10 pm

Radio Free Current live broadcast with Jill Riley

Sunday, August 31

3–5 pm

The Current live broadcast with Bill DeVille

5–6 pm

The Local Show with Bill DeVille

7–10 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mac Wilson

Monday, September 1

3–7 pm

The Current live broadcast with Mark Wheat

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT

In studio performances on The Current from April 1 to June 30, 2008

Aviette

Self-described as "The Cure meets Sonic Youth," local indie rockers Aviette (pronounced Ah-vee-ette) are releasing their second album "The Way We Met." (06/26/2008)

Shearwater

Shearwater's latest project, released in June 2008, is called "Rook" and has been receiving favorable reviews from music critics across the globe. (06/25/2008)

Aimee Mann

Aimee Mann came to the national spotlight in 1984 with the song "Voices Carry" by her band 'Til Tuesday. Since then, she has gone on to a successful solo career, distributing her own music via her label SuperEgo Records, recording a Christmas album, and getting her toe shot off in the movie The Big Lebowski. (06/16/2008)

Roma di Luna

Roma di Luna is releasing their third studio album, "Casting the Bones" and it has a new feel. The sound of the local duo has transformed over the past months by adding the influence of other musicians and friends. (06/13/2008)

Haley Bonar

Over a year in the making, local singer/songwriter Haley Bonar is releasing her third album, "Big Star" and on tour across the country with Haden. The new album, named after her favorite song, the title track is about irony and fame. (06/12/2008)

Iron & Wine

Sam Beam is Iron & Wine. That's the moniker for the singer/songwriter behind the delicate guitar picking and soft-spoken voice that has covered The Postal Service's "Such Great Heights" and has been featured on a psychedelic M&Ms commercial. Iron & Wine has also released three full-length albums and a whole slew of EPs. (06/11/2008)

Old 97s

The Dallas, Texas band Old 97's was formed by singer/guitarist Rhett Miller and bassist Murry Hammond in 1993. They released their debut "Hitchhike To Rhome" in 1994 on the indie label Big Iron and in 1995 released "Wreck Your Life" on Bloodshot Records. (06/04/2008)

Chris Koza

Twin Cities songwriter Chris Koza is out with a new album titled "The Dark, Delirious Morning." It's his third full-length recording. The disc is already being called "Beatle-esque" and "bouncy" and Koza admits he's pretty proud of it. (06/04/2008)

Adele

At just barely 20 years old and still living at home with her mom, Adele has a debut album that has already hit number one in England. With a strong, crisp voice that was perfected at her rock-and-roll high school, she got a record deal based on the first song she ever wrote, "Hometown Glory." (06/03/2008)

Death Cab for Cutie

Death Cab For Cutie formed in Bellingham Washington in 1997 as a solo project of frontman Ben Gibbard. The band's latest project entitled, "Narrow Stairs" was released in May, 2008. (06/02/2008)

Solid Gold

Solid Gold's music has been described as an exploration into "unique instrumentation and composition, pairing circuit-bent organs with classical violin and opera singing, juxtaposing banjo with harsh electronic beats." (05/30/2008)

Dan Chouinard

In the summer of 2002, Dan Chouinard bicycled around Europe with an accordion strapped to his back, and created music, made friends, and what turned out to be the contents of a staged musical variety show at the Fitzgerald Theater called, "Cafe Europa." The show was such a success that Dan has created the sequel, "Cafe Europa II." (05/29/2008)

Gordon Johnson

Twin Cities bassist Gordon Johnson is out with another "Trios" album. This is the fourth in a series of recordings featuring Gordy, along with a variety of different jazz pianists and drummers. (05/22/2008)

Dizzee Rascal

Dylan Mills, known professionally as Dizzee Rascal, is a solo artist who came up in the U.K. Garage/Grime music scene. His debut album, "Boy In Da Corner" won him the country's Mercury Prize. (05/16/2008)

Clinic

Art punk four-piece Clinic formed in Liverpool in 1997 and released their first single on their own Aladdin's Cave of Golf label. In 2002, the band released their second album "Walking With Thee" which was nominated for a Grammy. (05/13/2008)

Cameron McGill

Cameron McGill was born in Champaign-Urbana, IL, in 1977 and spent his childhood years listening to his father's music collection which included The Beach Boys, Neil Young, Willie Nelson, and Johnny Cash. (05/12/2008)

The Kills

The Kills latest CD, "Midnight Boom," was released in the United States in early 2008, and the band is currently on tour in support of that project. (05/11/2008)

Dr. Dog

Dr. Dog has been described as a psychedelic rock band and have drawn comparisons to bands of the 1960's, including The Beatles, The Band, and The Beach Boys. (05/09/2008)

Tokyo Police Club

Tokyo Police Club formed in 2005 in the wake of the breakup of their previous band. That summer they began performing live and later that fall they played the Montreal Pop Festival. (05/07/2008)

Black Kids

The band Black Kids posted their four-song EP on their MySpace page and received a lot of buzz, subsequently becoming one of the most talked about new bands in 2007. Their style of music combines '60s style pop, '80s new wave and upbeat dance grooves. (05/07/2008)

Martin Dosh

After spending most of 2007 on the road touring as a solo artist and as a member of Andrew Bird's band, Martin Dosh's "Wolves And Wishes" will be released in May 2008 and is the fourth Dosh full-length studio project. (05/02/2008)

The Watson Twins

In 2006, The Watson Twins release their EP "Southern Manners" with songs from the record being featured on Grey's Anatomy, The Sundance Film Festival Web site, and independent film soundtracks. (05/02/2008)

Lucy Wainwright Roche

So if your parents are musicians and your siblings and all of your friends are also musicians, it's in the stars that YOU would become a musician. Right? "Nope", says Lucy Wainwright Roche. (05/01/2008)

Elbow

The band Elbow referred to themselves as "prog without the solos" and they said it without winking. In 2008 the band released their latest effort, "The Seldom Seen Kid." (04/30/2008)

New Roots Duo

The New Roots Duo is comprised of a pair of local fingerstyle guitarists, Ben Woolman and Dan Schwartz. Both have successful individual careers in the music industry, but found that their playing styles fit well together. (04/30/2008)

Foals

Foals' lead singer Yannis explains the band's approach to making music by saying, "we wanted to make music that was very technical, that wasn't just party music, but at the same time you could dance to it." (04/29/2008)

Neva Dinova

Named after the grandmother of vocalists and guitarist Jake Bellow, the Omaha five-piece Neva Dinova are criss-crossing the country in support of their new album "You May Already Be Dreaming." (04/28/2008)

Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman

Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman are making a pass through Minnesota. The duo, from upstate New York, originally started as a band, but have honed their sound down to a duo with Pete's amazing guitar work and Karen's voice and love for percussion. (04/24/2008)

Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion

Sarah Lee Guthrie and Johnny Irion have been busy. They're on the road, complete with guitars, pens, paper, and kids. (04/23/2008)

Atmosphere

Rapper Slug from Atmosphere thinks that he might be becoming better at promoting records than making records. The new full-length album, "When Life Gives You Lemons..." comes out April 22, 2008 after a plethora of EPs and an internet-only album have released within the past year. (04/21/2008)

The Current Fakebook with Chuck D

Host Mary Lucia welcomed Public Enemy founder, writer and activist Chuck D to the Current Fakebook at the Fitzgerald Theater on Saturday, April 19, 2008. (04/19/2008)

Hot Chip

The London band Hot Chip, released their debut EP CD, "Mexico" in 2000. By 2002 they self released their San Francisco EP. In 2005, they signed with record label DFA and released the "Over and Over" EP and "The Warning" in 2006. Their latest project is entitled, "Made In The Dark." (04/18/2008)

Peter Ostroushko

"Lordy Lucas!" That was almost the name of the Peter Ostroushko's Heartland Band, but an executive nixed it. No matter what you call it, Ostroushko's band and concerts over the past several years in the Midwest have gathered fans for the local musician. (04/17/2008)

American Music Club

From the mid-'80s to the mid-'90s, American Music Club were one of the most acclaimed U.S. underground bands. They had recorded seven albums before finally calling it a day. (04/11/2008)

Storyhill

Following the success of their Red House Records debut recording, Storyhill has been constantly touring, playing coffee houses, colleges, festivals and winning songwriting contests. And somehow, through all the miles Chris Cunningham and John Hermanson have also found time to write. (04/11/2008)

Peter Lang

It seems at one time or another in a music legend's life, he returns to the music that got him into the career in the first place. That's what Peter Lang did. His twelfth album is being released this week and after a career being labeled a folk and fingerstyle guitar ace, Lang is returning to his blues roots. (04/09/2008)

Mark Everett

In 2008, Eels released two CD/DVD sets - "Meet the Eels": Essential Eels 1996-2006, Volume I and Useless Trinkets: B Sides, Soundtracks, Rarities and Unreleased 1996-2007. (04/07/2008)

The Shackletons

The Chambersburg, Pennsylvania five-piece known as the Shackletons brought their gritty, garage rock (and some fancy dance moves) to The Current. Unfortunately, we cannot recreate the dance steps, but lead vocalist Mark Redding described the moves as best he could. He also described a near death experience. Neither of the two are related, but he discussed them with Mary Lucia before their show at the Triple Rock. (04/04/2008)

Tapes 'n Tapes

With one full-length album under their belts, Minneapolis' Tapes 'n Tapes are ready to release their follow up "Walk It Off" on Tuesday. The fabulous four-some stopped by our studios to play some of the new songs and chat about their busy touring schedule and the blogger buzz. (04/04/2008)

Nada Surf

"High/Low" was a major breakthrough for Nada Surf, mainly because of their infectious hit song "Popular." After their initial breakthrough the band toured in both the USA and most of Europe continuing to expand their fan base. (04/03/2008)

Features run on the Current from April 1 to June 30, 2008

New laws for Minnesotans

No more calling 911 when there isn't really a fire, and stop touching police officers' tazers. (07/01/2008)

Rock The Garden Live

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Rock the Garden a huge success! Be sure to listen on Sunday, June 29 at 7 p.m. when we present Rock the Garden Live, featuring performance highlights from this year's event. (06/29/08)

Sisters act

Minnesota wouldn't be what it is today without the help of a small, but dedicated group of nuns. (06/24/2008)

Forty years of the Electric Fetus

This Minneapolis music store has lots of goals. Selling music is only one of them. (06/19/2008)

The Current Live at Bonaroo

Jill Riley broadcasts live from Bonaroo in Manchester, Tennessee. (06/12/08 – 06/15/08)

A conversation with humorist David Sedaris

Best-selling author David Sedaris discusses cell phones, the Internet, and what not to say to people at a book signing. (06/14/2008)

Real World: U.S. Aircraft Carrier

It's been called a floating high school. And it's an integral part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (05/30/2008)

Trading four wheels for two

With gas prices soaring, commuting by bicycle seems more appealing than ever. But two-wheeled transit can take some getting used to. (05/23/2008)

Putting the spotlight on bad ads

A Twin Cities think tank showcases the worst political advertising America has to offer. (05/20/2008)

The fall from frontrunner

Six months ago pundits named Hillary Clinton the inevitable Democratic nominee for president. Today they're calling for her to bow out of the race. (05/16/2008)

Symbolizing the state

What do a morel mushroom, a Lake Superior agate and a blueberry muffin have in common? They're all official state symbols for Minnesota, of course. (05/09/2008)

The marketing of Minnesota

How do you convince people to move to your state? You come up with a clever marketing plan. And that's just what Minnesota did in the 1800s. (05/08/2008)

The push to make Minnesota an all-Indian state

Minnesota officially became a state in 1858. But 16 years before that, there was another proposal for statehood. And it would have created a much different Minnesota. (05/07/2008)

Minnesota as it was

St. Paul was already a bustling community when Minnesota became a state. Just what was life like in this 1850s frontier town? (05/06/2008)

Minnesota by the numbers

Minnesota marks its 150th year of statehood. What kind of place has it become? (05/05/2008)

What the beep?

Americans are bombarded by electronic beeps. Microwaves emit them. So do ATMs and elevators, grocery store scanners and waffle makers. But why? (04/25/2008)

Northwest and Delta to become one

Delta and Northwest have high hopes. But not everyone is happy about the combination of the carriers. (04/15/2008)

The evolution of taxation

Taxes have been around almost as long as civilization itself. In fact, ancient Egyptians complained about the tax collector through hieroglyphs. (04/15/2008)

Happy birthday, peace sign

They said it would never catch on. Today, it's one of the most recognizable symbols in the world. (04/10/2008)

Protests are Olympic tradition

Political protest has long been part of the Olympic Games. (04/07/2008)

The Current Quarterly Programming Report January 1 to March 31, 2008

In-studio performances

Ingrid Michaelson

Ingrid Michaelson released her debut CD "Girls and Boys" in January 2007 on her own label, Cabin 24 Records. Four songs from her debut were also featured on the prime-time television drama Grey's Anatomy and in commercials for clothing company Old Navy. (03/31/2008)

Headlights

The band Headlights are touring fanatics spending more days on the road than not. With their light, dreamy melodies and male-female harmonies, they even managed to play ten shows at the South By Southwest music festival. (03/30/2008)

The Mekons

The Mekons are a band originally from England that was formed in 1977. From the time of their debut album, "The Quality of Mercy Is Not Strnen", the Mekons wielded trebly guitars and shouted vocals over semi-funky rhythms tracks. (03/28/2008)

Pat Donohue

Pat Donohue is no stranger to public radio listeners all across the country as the ace guitarist of the Guy's All Star Shoe Band on A Prairie Home Companion. He's also from Minnesota, based in St. Paul, and can be seen with various combinations of musicians around the area. (03/26/2008)

British Sea Power

The band were originally known as British Air Power and one of their four songs in their demo package was called British Sea Power. They were signed to Rough Trade Records in 2001 and released several singles before releasing their debut CD, "The Decline Of British Sea Power" in 2003. (03/25/2008)

Bell X1

Bell X1 was formed from the remnants of Juniper in 1999. Their most successful year to date was documented with the CD/DVD set "Tour de Flock" in June of 2007, the first release on the band's newly established Bellyup Records label. (03/20/2008)

Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks

In March of 2008, former Pavement front man Stephen Malkmus released his fourth studio album with The Jicks entitled, "Real Emotional Trash." (03/20/2008)

Boiled In Lead

It's been 25 years since Boiled In Lead started playing music in the Twin Cities area. Over the years, the band has released several records, seen bars and nightclubs come and go (and crash and burn) and has had a few personnel changes too. (03/17/2008)

Blitzen Trapper

The Portland, Oregon sextet that have been together since 2000, Blitzen Trapper are lo-fi folky garage rockers. Those adjectives weren't just picked out of a hat. Blitzen Trapper grab influences from The Grateful Dead, Olivia Tremor Control, and Frank Zappa while playing in a scene that spawned The Decemberists, The Shins, and Elliott Smith. Their third self-released album, "Wild Mountain Nation" was released in 2007. (03/15/2008)

John Doe

As one of the founding members of the Los Angeles punk band X, John Doe was one of the most influential figures in American alternative rock during the early '80s, but when he launched a solo career in the early '90s, he decided to pursue a rootsy, country-rock direction instead of continuing with punk. X's latter-day albums exhibited a rockabilly and country influence, but it wasn't until Doe's 1990 debut, Meet John Doe, that he recorded a pure country album. (03/15/2008)

Nicole Atkins

Born and raised in Neptune City, NJ, singer-songwriter Nicole Atkins lived up and down the east coast before settling in New York to write her debut album about her hometown. Atkins was approached by friend and now band-mate Dan Chen in 2005 to start a new band, The Sea, based on the songs Atkins had on her MySpace page. (03/15/2008)

Tokyo Police Club

Tokyo Police Club is a group of four friends from Newmarket Ontario who picked up instruments and formed a band in their senior year of high school. Their debut EP A Lesson In Crime was written up everywhere from indie blogs to Rolling Stone who gushed it had, "seven first-rate mod-punk party starters." Elephant Shell, the debut full-length, is due at the end of April. (03/15/2008)

The Heavy

The Heavy hail from Noid, a small town in southwest of England. The band will be lumped in with the retro-soul revival, but The Heavy add cool lo-fi samples and facemelting guitar solos to create a one of a kind groove that's heavy, dirty, and funky. (03/15/2008)

Wye Oak

Baltimore duo Jenn Wasner and Andy Stack chose the name Wye Oak after they realized Monarch, their first choice for a name had already been claimed by 7 other bands. Their recorded sound is layered and lush. They try to capture that same sound when the two of them perform live, but they also feel that if a song is good enough, it should be able to stand on its own. (03/15/2008)

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Devonte Hynes used to draw a comic strip called Lightspeed Champion to kill time while he was in math class. When his indie-buzz band Test Icicles broke up in 2006, Hynes resurrected the name for his new project. (03/15/2008)

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With a music career spanning over two decades, the sometimes folk and sometimes punk singer/songwriter Billy Bragg has teamed up with legendary artists like Wilco and Johnny Marr (The Smiths) as well as new artists like Kate Nash in addition to his abundant solo work. (03/14/2008)

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Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward first met when they were recording a Richard Thompson song for a movie soundtrack. The actress and the singer-songwriter hit it off and soon after that, Deschanel shared with Ward some of the songs she had written. Volume One is their first CD together. (03/14/2008)

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The Duke Spirit is coming to America again, despite a 2006 tour that saw all their gear stolen in Portland and a broken elbow for bassist Toby Butler in Las Vegas. (03/14/2008)

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Dizzee Rascal grew up in the East End of London, and honed his MC skills as a teenager at raves and on pirate radio. (03/14/2008)

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One critic wrote that the music of White Williams ties pop eclecticism to peripateticism. We figure that's exactly what 23-year old Cleveland native Joe Williams was hoping for while he was recording *Smoke* (because nothing is more rock and roll than peripateticism). (03/14/2008)

Karen Vieno Paurus performs in The Current studio

If you get out to nightclubs in the Twin Cities at all, there's a good chance you've heard Karen Vieno Paurus play and sing. She's often seen with Lili's Burlesque Revue as the "Sultry Chanteuse" and has been involved with a few MPR "Stage Session" shows at the Fitzgerald Theater. (03/14/2008)

The Rascals

Most people who turn 21 are excited about their new legal ability to consume alcohol. The three 21 year olds from Liverpool, Miles Kane (guitar), Joe Edwards (bass), and Greg Mighall (drums), who make up The Rascals are thinking bigger. As former members of The Little Flames, they opened for bands like The Coral, The Zutons, and their new best friends, The Arctic Monkeys. (03/13/2008)

Cloud Cult

Armed with a multitude of instruments, laptops, video, paint and canvases, the environmentally-friendly local band Cloud Cult are making their second trip to SXSW this year. (03/13/2008)

Jim Noir

Were you one of many people with the "Eanie Meany" earworm? With a repetitious chorus of "eeeeennneeeee meeeeaannniiee," maybe you were watching the 2006 World Cup where encountering Jim Noir's catchy soccer anthem "Eanie Meany" was next to impossible. (03/13/2008)

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Singer Nick Urata founded DeVotchKa nine years ago with the idea of mixing together the music of east and west. He did not found it with the hopes of selling music to McDonald's. The band turned down a request to use one of their songs in the fast-food giant's commercials. (03/13/2008)

Sons & Daughters

Glasgow's Sons and Daughters recorded *This Gift* in a house in the village of Adfern on the west coast of Scotland. The band's Adele Bethel said, "We wrote and practiced all day and played poker and got drunk at night." Sons and Daughters cancelled a late March Minneapolis performance, so your best chance to hear them live is right here. (03/13/2008)

Jesca Hoop

It is likely that every story you ever read about Jesca Hoop will mention this -- she got her big break while she worked as a nanny for Tom Waits' kids. He passed her demo on to some influential people in the business. While it might be hard for Hoop to escape that biographical bullet point, her music certainly stands on its own. Her SXSW appearance is her second on *The Current*. (03/13/2008)

The Raveonettes

With The Raveonettes' fourth CD *Lust Lust Lust* landing on the Billboard Top 200 chart, the band has secured their position as Denmark's most popular musical export ever. Sune Rose Wagner began writing the album at a rehearsal space in London, where he churned out seven songs in the first day. The result is 14 songs that his cohort Sahrin Foo describes as "direct and in your face." (03/13/2008)

Pert' Near Sandstone

Local bluegrass band Pert' Near Sandstone performs in studio to promote elementary music fundraiser at First Avenue. (03/13/2008)

David Hanners and Bernie King

David Hanners and Bernie King are among several Twin Cities musicians are gathering on the anniversary of Townes Van Zandt's birthday, March 6,2008 at Lee's Liquor Lounge to pay tribute to the late songwriter. (03/06/2008)

Brass Kings

Everything but the kitchen sink. That's what your stage looks like when The Brass Kings show up to play a gig. They haul in a washboard, part of a refrigerator door, an old washtub, some rope, a pole, and an arm load of various guitars. (02/28/2008)

Nicole Atkins

28-year-old musician Nicole Atkins was born and raised in Neptune City, located a stones throw from fabled Asbury Park. By the age of 13, she found an old beat up guitar in the attic of her house and taught herself to play a Grateful Dead song. (02/26/2008)

Connie Evingson

Local jazz singer Connie Evingson has a new CD out, "Little Did I Dream" - a tribute to the witty local songwriter Dave Frishberg. This is not the first time Evingson has paid tribute to an artist with local roots, but she said she's always been a fan of Frishberg's and the project was long overdue. (02/21/2008)

Neal Hagberg

Over the past several years singing and touring with his wife Leandra, Neal Hagberg has collected ideas for songs that don't necessarily fit the "Neal and Leandra mold." In fact, the songs are a definite departure from the duo's act and are meant to make the listener feel a tad bit uncomfortable, and challenge fears and beliefs. (02/20/2008)

Mike Doughty

Mike Doughty began his music career as frontman for the band Soul Coughing in 1992. In 2008 Mike Doughty is back with a brand new album entitled, "Golden Delicious" and sounding better than ever. (02/19/2008)

Carrie Newcomer

In her eleventh album, Carrie Newcomer continues on a constant journey through human relationships - relationships we have with each other and spiritual relationships within our own hearts. She admits to being a "theology nerd" and that her songs often ask really good questions, but leaving the answer lines open to the listener. (02/18/2008)

Super Furry Animals

Super Furry Animals formed in Cardiff, Wales in 1993. The band signed with the Rough Trade label in 2006 and released "Hey Venus!" in 2007. (02/15/2008)

Gary Louris

He's a founding member of the Minneapolis-based band The Jayhawks and a member of the Midwest musical collective/side-project Golden Smog. His latest solo project is entitled "Vagabonds," with a scheduled release date of February 19, 2008. (02/12/2008)

Dean & Britta

Former members of Luna Dean Wareham and Britta Phillips released "L'Avventura," an album of covers and duets produced by Tony Visconti. This was followed by Back Numbers, again with Visconti producing, in February 2007. (02/11/2008)

Keren Ann

Keren Ann released her full-length debut, "La Biographie de Luka Philipsen," in 2000. La Biographie was received well in Europe and earned several nominations for the Victoires - the French equivalent of the Grammy - for Best New Discovery (Artist and Album) and Best Song of the Year. (02/11/2008)

Dan Newton

Chances are, if you've heard any live music in the Twin Cities at any time you've seen Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton in his trademark hi-top Chuck Taylors playing the accordion. He's the founding member of several area bands including the Cafe Accordion Orchestra, the Rocking Pinecones, Jumbo Yaya and others. (02/10/2008)

Bob Mould

Bob Mould has written the song of his career! However it won't be on his new album, "District Line," but the former Husker Du guitarist/singer/songwriter Bob Mould played a snippet of it when he stopped by The Current. (02/06/2008)

Spaghetti Western String Co.

What do you call a string ensemble when it adds a wind instrument? "Good question," say the members of the Spaghetti Western String Co. They've added a clarinetist in the past year which moved them in new musical directions while maintaining their indefinable sound. (02/06/2008)

Ellis

Ellis is talented singer-songwriter based out of the Twin Cities with a loyal, involved fan base. So involved, in fact, that they had a large part in producing a recent live album by helping her decide the album's musical direction and which songs to include. (01/31/2008)

Louis XIV

Named after the seventeenth-century French king, San Diego's glam-punk rockers Louis XIV are back with their sophomore album "Slick Dogs and Ponies." They've decided that you will either love it or hate it. (01/30/2008)

Editors

From a 1,000 copies limited-release single at the start of 2005 to having their beer "borrowed" by Paul McCartney and a platinum album, Editors have done it their way and triumphed. (01/29/2008)

Toumani Diabate

Toumani Diabate comes from a long family tradition of kora players including his father, Sidiki Diabate, who recorded the first ever kora album in 1970. In September 2005, Toumani Diabate released In the Heart of the Moon, a collaboration with the late Ali Farka Toure, his mentor. (01/29/2008)

Mike Mangione and Tom Mangione

Brothers Mike and Tom Mangione have influenced each other musically from their earliest days. Mike's first chord was the upside down E he learned from Tom. Together they've made a career of playing the instrument incorrectly. (01/24/2008)

Carolina Chocolate Drops

The Carolina Chocolate Drops are on a mission to connect old style music and traditional instruments with young people and new sounds. (01/23/2008)

Bon Iver

Bon Iver's debut release "For Emma, Forever Ago," a nine-song album, came together at a remote cabin in the woods of Northwestern Wisconsin. All of his personal troubles, including heartache, longing, love, loss, and guilt was purged into the form of song. (01/17/2008)

G. Love

Garrett Dotton III - also known as G. Love - was born in Philadelphia, PA. He began playing guitar at the age of 8 and wrote his first song by the time he was a freshman in high school. With influences such as Bob Dylan, John Hammond Jr., The Beastie Boys, Run-DMC and Schooly D, you'd probably wonder what the music of G. Love would sound like. (01/16/2008)

The Bird and the Bee

What started as a side project for two friends to collaborate and just have fun has become quite a bit more. In just over a year since their last stop by our studios Inara George and Greg Kursten have released a full length an Ep and they're just about to release another EP next month. (01/10/2008)

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Students find their calling in the ROTC

Support for the Iraq war is down, but the number of college students completing Army officer training is on the rise. (03/28/2008)

UN issues bird flu warning

Bird flu is no longer dominating the headlines. But that doesn't mean we've beaten it into submission. (03/26/2008)

Guided by indie rock

John Sellers just may be the most obsessive Guided by Voices fan on the planet. And, if you know anything about Guided by Voices fans, that's really saying something. (03/12/2008)

Deep-fried devotion

If Lent had a mascot, it would likely be a fish, or maybe a fish fillet. (03/07/2008)

The Greatest Valentine's Day songs of All Time: 2008

Whether it's breaking up or getting together, Valentine's Day is full of the melodies which make a person's heart soar or sink, and you've let us know. We've posted complete audio and playlists for Mark Wheat's "Greatest Love Songs of All Time" and Danny Sigelman's "Greatest Break-Up Songs of All Time." (All audio 128k mp3).

It's about time

Daylight saving time goes into effect early Sunday morning. The goal of daylight saving time is to provide more light in the evening. Its secondary objective must be to create chaos. (03/06/2008)

Take that, rogue satellite

The United States shoots down a defunct spy satellite. (02/21/2008)

Getting at the heart of Valentine's Day

Mix a pagan fertility festival with a bunch of martyred Christian saints. Add the words of an English poet. And throw in some bloody strips of goat hide. What do you get? Valentine's Day, of course. (02/14/2008)

Super Tuesday gets super-sized

For many, the term "super" just wasn't super enough to describe this year's Super Tuesday. (02/06/2008)

It's the delegates, stupid

Super Tuesday becomes Super-Duper Tuesday. Thousands of delegates are up for grabs as voters in more than 20 states head to the polls. (02/04/2008)

America by the numbers

President Bush gave his State of the Union address this week. Here's an alternative look at just how the country is faring these days. (02/01/2008)

House of (credit) cards

The average American household now has more than \$8,000 in credit card debt. In a country of spenders, why bother to save? (01/30/2008)

Figure skaters get a leg up from those behind the scenes

Sweepers, menders and music makers help skaters do their best at the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. (01/25/2008)

Documentary explores life in Warhol's shadow

A filmmaker learns her long-lost uncle was once Andy Warhol's live-in boyfriend. Her documentary tries to piece together the identity of the relative she never knew. (01/18/2008)

MySpace is a must-have for candidates

As it turns out, social networking sites can be used for more than simply posting pictures of your inebriated friends. Presidential candidates rely on them to connect with voters. (01/15/2008)

Who's quoting whom on the campaign trail?

Presidential candidates evoke the words of everyone from Abraham Lincoln to Charles Mingus to Jesus. (01/10/2008)

Let's get these parties started

After months chock full of pancake breakfasts and political rallies, the Iowa caucuses are finally here. (01/03/2008)

Top 89 of 2007

The Current's Top 89 was your chance to tell us your top albums of the past year. On New Year's Day, we played The Top 89 of 2007 as chosen by you, the listener. (01/01/2008)

The Current Live at SXSW – 2008

March 13

The Raveonettes

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