

The Boys (and Girls) of Columbia County *continued from page 12*

under the name *Timberbound Project*. They chose songs that described life in the Pacific Northwest – mostly Kim and John’s songs from the songbook, but also songs by Kytr or Berge, with a Woody Guthrie tune thrown in here and there. Just recently Seamons received permission from the original members to change the name of this new band to just *Timberbound*.

The new incarnation of *Timberbound* has clearly captured the tradition, atmosphere and essence of the original string music. The choice of songs on the CD reflects Seamons’ various interests in the artists who were part of *Timberbound* and pays homage to Seamons’ musical heroes. Seamons says he picked what he considered some of the “...strongest material,” for this initial recording.

Nine of the eighteen songs are from the songbook, and include the iconic ‘Boys of Columbia County,’ and ‘Timberbound,’ John’s ode to finding himself living in the woods of Keasey. Three of the songs are the only three songs Dave Berge ever wrote, including the sea shanty like ‘Fisherman’s Life.’ ‘Spring Rain’ is a song Kytr wrote about Kim. ‘Cedar Mill Boys’ is also a Kytr tune that the original *Timberbound* played live. ‘Trees’ is a beautiful, haunting and powerful eulogy

‘Another Good Maul,’ a foot stomper that John had recorded and is revived here. In the songbook John included two traditional tunes that he wrote new lyrics for; Seamons and company perform them here in the spirit they were intended. ‘Pretty Polly’ is an age-old

is continuing on and being carried forward by the next generation. Joe decided to write new lyrics to the classic tune (in the folk song tradition) and add his own perspective on life in Columbia County. “I wanted to mention the people that I associate with Keasey because I didn’t know John and Kim when they lived there. The people I mention are that place for me.”

Completing this first CD is a great accomplishment for Seamons and his band mates. “This kind of gives us a central identity,” says Seamons. “It’s a foundation that has us rooted and anchored in a place and a time.” According to Seamons, capturing this first batch of material also opens other doorways for the band. “Now we can do whatever we want because we have this big task completed.”

Seamons says he plans to continue in his quest to gather more stories, information and folklore from the original *Timberbound* time period and expand on what he still considers the ‘*Timberbound Project*.’

He has received permission from Kim Cunnick to reprint the *Timberbound Songbook*. According to Seamons it will be an expanded version with all the songs from the original, plus several Kytr songs, all three Berge songs, possibly more of John’s writings, and other material. “It’s still developing and in the theoretical stages,” says Seamons.

In musical terms Seamons envisions the group expanding their diversity without getting too far away from their roots. Seamons says Kytr has a large body of work that has not yet been recorded that he hopes to tap into. “He has all these other songs that hardly anyone has heard,” says Seamons. *Timberbound* is scheduled to appear with Hobe Kytr at the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle on May 23rd. There is also a rumor that Kim Cunnick will be back in the area for a *Timberbound* show this spring. Seamons hopes the Portland Folklore Society will also host a concert in the fall.

The possibilities continue to develop and multiply.

“I like the concept of the richness and texture and the abstract idea of music that reflects the Pacific Northwest,” says Seamons. “We want to broaden the horizons of that, because so far we’ve been very focused on this songbook and these songs. Now it can breathe a little bit and we can expand what we do. Maybe we’ll do more original songs. It’s all still fermenting.”

You can follow Timberbound on Facebook.



Members of *Timberbound* and friends at their CD release party. Photo by Emily Rome.

murder ballad; the soaring harmonies of Seamons and Sandgrin on ‘Little Birdie’ make it one of the highlights of the CD.

The liner notes tell some personal stories about how each one of the songs found its way into Seamons’ heart and onto this recording and create a new, added layer to the *Timberbound* lore. The design on the CD packaging is a beautifully crafted and complex layering of hand-cut relief prints that evoke the northwest. The prints are the creation of artists Kathryn Cotnoir and Erik Sandgren, vocalist Kate Sandgren’s parents, as well Dee Vadnais, also an artist, who is Seamons’ mother. The printing was done at Stumptown Printers in Portland, where Seamons was amazed to discover that one of the workers was a folk musician who had actually played music with Kytr at one time. “It was another sign from the universe,” says Seamons.

Seamons brings the new CD full circle with a couple of the songs on the recording. On ‘Father’s Song’ and ‘The Ballad of Fuckin’ A’, Seamons asked a gathering of family and friends, including Berge’s wife Dana, to help sing the choruses. Seamons says it was a tribute to the ‘Rutabagga Chorus,’ longtime friends from Keasey, Vernonia and Mist, who had joined Kytr and Berge on their album. “It’s also an attempt to recreate in the studio the sound these songs usually have, which is a whole bunch of people in a living room singing together,” says Seamons. “You create a mood and a feeling and a different kind of power when a whole bunch of people are together singing,” like when Seamons first heard the songs as a young boy.

‘The Boys and Girls of Columbia County’ is a reprise of the original and a salute to the Keasey community. It features lyrics written years ago by Vernonian Schann Nelson and new lyrics by Seamons. Those new lyrics mention friends Cory Colburn, Jim Buxton and CiCi Bell as well as lost loved ones Jenelle Wiggins, John Cunnick and Charles Colburn. Erik Sandgren had suggested that Joe include some of his own writing on the CD to show how the music



Dave Berge, a member of the original *Timberbound*, joined the new band for several songs on the CD. Photo by Scott Bergstrom.

to John, written by Kytr, that Kim asked Seamons to play for her when he recently visited her in Costa Rica. Berge even joined the band in the studio and plays on several of the tracks. “The new CD all ties back into John and Kim and tries to give a well-rounded portrait of their life out there at Keasey,” says Seamons.

The playing and singing on the CD is first-rate. The vocal harmonies are lovely and vocalist Kate Sandgren is in fine voice throughout. The excellent musicianship of Gavin Duffy is definitely evident. Estrin, a classically trained violinist who plays with the Portland Opera who just started playing fiddle with *Timberbound*, fills out the sound and is superb. Seamons sings most of the vocals, changing his style to meet the needs of each song and his banjo gives the tunes a real folk feel. He plays the harmonica on

Visit US today for all your financial needs!

Josh, Juli, Teresa, Margy & Davia
905 Bridge Street
(503) 429-6271

All of US serving you®

usbank.com Member FDIC

503.429.7408

spiralz SALON

Karin Davenport
Owner/Stylist

59229 Nehalem Hwy. South www.spiralzsalon.com

WELLER & SON'S

STEVE
HM: 503-429-3400
CELL: 503-313-9006

DENNIS
HM: 503-429-2810
CELL: 503-313-9044

1264 G ST.
VERNONIA, OR 97064

SELF LOADER
LONG LOGGER
CUSTOM LOGGING

ROAD BUILDING
LAND CLEARING
EXCAVATION

O.P.L. CERTIFIED
O.P.L.H. CERTIFIED

CREATURES

998 BRIDGE STREET
VERNONIA, OR 97064

MON-FRI 10:00AM-6:00PM
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM
SUN 12:00PM-4:00PM

PHONE: 503-429-PETS (7387)
FAX: 503-429-5027
E-MAIL: CREATURES@FRONTIER.COM
WWW.CREATURESPETSHOP.COM

Grey Dawn Gallery
879 Bridge St. (503) 429-2787

Photography - Bronze
Jewelry - Glasswork
Pottery - Custom Framing

www.greydawngallery.com
Featuring the finest in northwest art

GUITAR INSTRUCTION
WITH PROFESSOR DUDE!
ALL STYLES, LEVELS & AGES
503-789-3835

BEGINNERS: PLAY YOUR FAVORITE SONGS IMMEDIATELY!
ADVANCED STUDENTS: GET OUT OF RUTS & INTO NEW TERRITORY!
★ BECOME A SUPERSTAR OVERNIGHT ★

JOHN MITCHELL: PATIENT, PROFESSIONAL TEACHER/MUSICIAN - SUCCESSFUL, FUN & CREATIVE... APPROACH - 15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

We saddle shoe. Do you?

Muffy's

950 Bridge Street
Vernonia, OR 97064
503.429.5050 or 866.524.5050
www.muffys.com

World Headquarters Vernonia, Oregon