



Steve Lacey

Bill Gilday

Ray Bethke

The Gumboots

From the tragic to the triumphant to the tongue-in-cheek, no other folk group tells northern tales quite like *The Gumboots*. What Stan Rogers is to the east coast and Connie Kaldor to the prairies, so are *The Gumboots* to the Canadian north.

Based in Yellowknife, in Canada's Northwest Territories, *The Gumboots* perform and record original folk music documenting northern history and the individuals who formed it. The group celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2004.

From time to time, the group also performs a mix of traditional and contemporary folk music. They tend to concentrate on vocal harmonies with guitars, mandolin, fiddle, recorder, tin whistles, accordion, harmonicas, bodhran, banjo, and occasionally the cello and even the moose bones providing the group's instrumentation.

Winners of several Aurora Awards (Northern Performing Arts Awards) for Outstanding Performances by a group (2), Best New Song (2), the group has performed at Festival by the Sea in St. John New Brunswick, the Atlin Music Festival in BC and regularly performs at Yellowknife's annual Folk on the Rocks Festival. They have also appeared on CBC TV's "The National Doubt - True North Concert" broadcast on CBC TV.

Their repertoire of songs and stories about northern history ensures that *The Gumboots* are in steady demand. They regularly perform at conferences and conventions, and have performed for the Royal Visit to Yellowknife, Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc, and for the Western Canadian Premiers. *The Gumboots* have also enjoyed frequent airplay on CBC North Radio as well as being featured on a number of CBC Radio Network programs including Morningside, This Morning, the Max Ferguson Show, Jurgen Goth's Disc Drive, Definitely Not the Opera, Madly Off In All Directions, Sounds Like Canada, RCI's internet program Spotlight and most recently as guests on Disc Drive's Solstice celebration.

Every year *The Gumboots* host a concert with a special guest from the "South." Their guests have included: *Juba, Connie Kaldor, Hal & Tow, Jerusalem Ridge, Cindy Church, Trilogy, Valdy, Modabo, Mae Moore, UHF, Willie P. Bennett, James Keelaghan, The Wailin' Jennys, Murray McLauchlan, Stephen Fearing* and most recently, *The McDades*.

Their first album: "Spirit of the North"; (GBTD7001) was independently released in April 1992. A second album "Northern Tracks", (GBTD7002) was independently released in April 1994. *The Gumboots'* third album "Search For a Passage" (GBTD7003) was released in June, 2000. The group is currently working on their fourth album, "Roads Less Traveled" (GBTD7004), set for release for Christmas 2007.

Current Line-up of *The Gumboots* includes:

- Bill Gilday - Baritone/Tenor/Lead Vocals, Keyboards, Guitar, Recorder & Moose Ribs
- Ray Bethke - Baritone/Tenor/Lead Vocals, Tin and Low Whistles, Bodhran, Harmonica & Concertina
- Steve Lacey - Baritone/Lead Vocals, 6 & 12 string Guitar, Dulcimer

For booking information please call:

Ray Bethke
4915 45th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1K6
Tel: 867-444-4844
Email: renaissance@northwestel.net

Albums are available from *The Gumboots* directly and from Festival Distribution at:

1-800-633-8282 or <http://www.festival.bc.ca/>