

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)

Lightspeed Champion

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)

Carbon/Silicon

No, Carbon/Silicon isn't a chemistry lesson about the periodic table of elements. It's a collaboration between The Clash's Mick Jones and Tony James of the Billy Idol-fronted Generation X, which sounds more like dance rock rather than their punk roots. (03/14/2008)

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Billy Bragg

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)

Duke Spirit

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)

Dizzee Rascal

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)

White Williams

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)

DeVotchka

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)

Features run on the Current from January 1 to March 31, 2008

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

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