

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT

The Current

October 1 to Dec 31, 2011

In studio performances

IAMDYNAMITE performs live in The Current studio

IAMDYNAMITE has a thing for caps lock. Debut album "SUPERMEGAFANTASTIC" substantiates that claim and for good reason: the duo's take on power rock is loud, explosive, and fast. They've been propelled into the reputation of a burgeoning buzz band throughout 2011 via extensive touring and a ravenous fan base yearning for more. December 15, 2011

Diego Garcia performs live in The Current studio

It has only been a year since New York band Elefant parted ways, and former frontman Diego Garcia has wasted no time in launching himself back into recording music. This time, his focus is on a new solo project and debut album called "Laura." December 14, 2011

Laura Marling performs live in The Current studio

At just 21 years old, English folk singer Laura Marling has already released her third full-length album, "A Creature I Don't Know." With her first two albums nominated for the Mercury Prize, she's already accomplished a lot at a young age. December 12, 2011

Doomtree Performs Live in the UBS Forum

Doomtree's members have all been featured in the spotlight for their solo projects, but it has become a rare sight to see the collective perform together in recent years. So when their newest album "No Kings" was announced, people in the Twin Cities were understandably buzzing about the idea of more group collaboration in a live setting. December 9, 2011

Polica performs live in The Current studio

Polica had already recorded their first full-length before debuting on the local music circuit. So the mystery behind them after their inaugural show in September was already remarkably large, expect that same energy as they headline Saturday night's (Jan. 28) birthday party show for The Current. December 2, 2011

Mates of State perform live in The Current studio

When indie music first started gaining ground in the early 2000s, one of the most successful bands in receiving mainstream attention was Mates of State, the married duo of Kori Gardner and Jason Hammel. Now they are back with their seventh album in a career that spans 14 years. November 21, 2011

Ximena Sarinana performs live in The Current studio

Ximena Sarinana released her critically acclaimed debut album "Mediocre" in 2008 and cemented her reputation in both Mexico and the United States with two Latin Grammy Awards nominations and an American Grammy Awards nomination under her belt. She's credited with helping to bring back the style of nueva cancion, a genre of Latin-folk popular in the 1960s-80s. November 16, 2011

Black Box Revelation perform live in The Current studio

Belgium's Black Box Revelation is a two-piece that sounds more like a ten-piece rock band. With layered guitars and booming drums, BBR's garage rock explodes with riffs and hooks. November 14, 2011

Rachael Yamagata performs live in The Current studio

After college at Northwestern University, Rachael Yamagata got her music start with Chicago band Bumpus. After six years of touring, she decided to go solo releasing her first self-titled EP in 2003, which she followed up with her first full-length "Happenstance" a year later. November 14, 2011

tUnE-yArDs perform live in The Current studio

tUnE-yArDs is the moniker and musical project of Merrill Garbus. Influenced by her experience and travels in Africa, she became interested in Afrobeat. Combined with her new Sony ICD-TK digital voice recorder and a new laptop, Garbus began recording melodies, noises, and lyrics which led to the release of her first album BiRd-BrAiNs, which she recorded on recycled cassette tape. November 13, 2011

Pert Near Sandstone performs in The Current studio

Major contributors to the roots-based musical hotbed that is the Twin Cities, Pert' Near Sandstone fuels the flame with their high energy old-timey tunes. November 13, 2011

Mike Doughty performs in The Current studios

Mike Doughty led the influential band Soul Coughing in the 1990s known for its idiosyncratic sound rooted in improvisation. At the turn of the last decade, he made his way into the solo scene, soon signing to Dave Matthews' label ATO Records. November 11, 2011

Dawes performs in the UBS Forum

L.A.-based Dawes has only been around a few years, but in that short time they've skyrocketed to the top of the folk-rock scene, especially with the release of their second album "Nothing Is Wrong." As an artist on ATO Records, they have harnessed plenty of inspiration with labelmates like My Morning Jacket, Drive-By Truckers and Gomez by their side. November 8, 2011

Dessa performs live at the Fitzgerald Theater

Dessa played a very sold-out show at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul in support of her newest release, "Castor, the Twin," a reworking of mostly older songs from her extensive catalogue. Enjoy audio and video from the event. November 8, 2011

The Wombats perform in The Current Studio

Led by singer, guitarist, and main writer Matthew Murphy, The Wombats formed at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts back in 2003. While the debut saw limited success in the States, the band hit the Top 10 in the UK and found themselves at Glastonbury and other festivals, setting the stage for their second album, "This Modern Glitch." November 7, 2011

Sleeping In The Aviary perform in The Current studio

Transplants from Madison Wisconsin, Sleeping in The Aviary have made the Twin Cities home to their energetic pop-rock sound. With a flair for 50's pop melodies, Sleeping in The Aviary keep their tunes short, sweet, filled with the catchiest hooks and even a shoe-be-do or two. November 6, 2011

Dan Mangan performs in The Current studios

Vancouver-based singer-songwriter Dan Mangan has been making sturdy, smart music for nearly a decade now. In September, he released his third full-length album, "Oh Fortune." November 1, 2011

The Envy Corps perform live in The Current studio

Forming in 2001 in Ames, Iowa, the Radiohead-esque four-piece that make up the Envy Corps, have been through several ups and downs in their ten years as a band. October 27, 2011

Phantogram performs live in The Current studio

With their debut record under their belts, the Saratoga Springs, New York duo Phantogram, are ready with a new EP entitled Nightlife. Joshua Carter and Sarah Barthel, who have been friend since junior high, continue to make infectious beats set against their ethereal indie pop sound. October 26, 2011

Buffalo Moon performs in The Current studio

Buffalo Moon's sun drenched sounds have moved off of the coast and into the jungle on their sophomore release "Selva Surreal." Appropriately translating into "Surreal Jungle," Buffalo Moon steps away from the breezy and dreamy sound found on their debut "Wetsuit" and dive into a psychedelic forest where laser sounds grow like palm trees. October 23, 2011

Portugal. The Man perform in The Current studios

In the seven years they've been together the Portland, Ore. (by way of Wasilla, Ala.) psych-rock quintet Portugal. The Man have continued to crank out tranquil, lush indie rock inflected with hints of psychedelia, prog and folk. The band sat down with Mary Lucia to discuss growing up in Alaska, their songwriting process, Sesame Street and more. October 23, 2011

Neon Indian performs live in The Current studio

Music runs in the family for Alan Palomo, frontman for the electro-indie band Neon Indian. Born in Mexico, his father was a pop star in the '70s and '80s, which influenced his band now based in Denton, Texas. October 23, 2011

Atlantis Quartet performs in The Current studio

Named the Citypages Best Jazz Artist of 2011, Atlantis Quartet have garnered the attention of jazz fans and critics alike, fitting right into the sweet spot where complexity and accessibility meet. October 16, 2011

Crimes perform in The Current studio

What started as a demo project for Andrew Jansen turned into a full band named after the content of the songs he was writing about, Crimes. The original demos, with all parts performed by Andrew, were about a seedy action, jealousy, or crime. The songs were posted online and paired with links to Minneapolis Crime Statistic. October 16, 2011

Explosions in the Sky perform in The Current studios

For a band that plays mostly lengthy, cathartic, guitar-led instrumentals, Explosions in the Sky have amassed an impressive following. Since the band formed in 1999 in Austin, Tex., their albums have reached ever-larger audiences and racked up increasing critical adoration. The quartet stopped by The Current studios to chat with Mark Wheat and play a few songs. October 11, 2011

The Drums perform in The Current studios

Brooklyn band The Drums serve up a master class in wired guitar-pop. Their infectious music is sourced in everything from '60s garage-rock to '70s power-pop and '80s post-punk and new-wave. October 10, 2011

Cults perform live in The Current studio

Cults can owe much of their success to the internet. Two and a half years ago, the duo of Brian Oblivion and Madeline Follin met at a rock show in San Diego, began dating, and a week later decided to move to New York. They began playing music together and posted songs on BandCamp, and it wasn't long until they were garnering attention from record labels and new fans. October 7, 2011

Imelda May performs live in The Current studio

Inspired by the 50s blues and rockabilly that her brother was listening to, Ireland's Imelda May began singing and performing at the age of 16. Twenty years later, she's still in the industry climbing up the charts in the UK with her record "Mayhem." October 5, 2011

St. Vincent performs in The Current studios

Onetime Polyphonic Spree member Annie Clark made her debut under the recording name St. Vincent four years ago with 2007's "Marry Me." But it was her sophomore effort, 2009's "Actor," that propelled her to critical acclaim and widespread popularity in the indie-rock community. Now, two years later, she has returned with her third album, "Strange Mercy." October 3, 2011

Wild Flag perform live in The Current studio

Although they don't consider themselves such, they are a "supergroup" of sorts. Wild Flag, featuring ex-members of Sleater-Kinney, Helium and The Minders officially formed in 2010 after Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney) announced it on the NPR All Songs Considered blog. The all-female rock band based in Portland, Oregon and Washington D.C., released their debut "Glass Tambourines" on Record Store Day. October 3, 2011

Girls perform in The Current studios

When San Francisco band Girls burst onto the indie-rock scene in 2009, they were heralded with a huge amount of hype and buzz, thanks to their infectious, messy garage-rock sound and to singer Christopher Owens' bizarre and fascinating life story (short version: it involves cults). October 2, 2011

Matt Latterell performs in The Current studio

Hailing from Foley, MN, the county seat of Benton County, Matt Latterell has been crafting songs for the past 13 years. Now a resident of Northeast Minneapolis and a regular performer at the 331 Club, Matt has honed in on his country-meets-indie sound. October 2, 2011

Twin Shadow performs in The Current studios

Twin Shadow is the indie alter-ego of the New York City-based DIY musician George Lewis Jr. Twin Shadow's music is an ethereal and haunting yet totally infectious blend of sleek, R&B-tinged new wave and lo-fi indie-pop. October 2, 2011

Features on The Current

Of Mirth and Mischief

Beloved local humorist and storyteller Kevin Kling transformed the Fitzgerald Theater's stage the weekend of December 16-18th into a whimsical world of fairies and mischief in his latest MPR commission "Of Mirth and Mischief," which airs on December 25 at 9 p.m. on The Current. December 25, 2011

The 2011 New Standards Holiday Show at the Fitzgerald Theater

The New Standards Holiday Show has become a staple of the Holiday season in the Twin Cities, and The Current is thrilled to share their 2011 performance with you. The show will be broadcast on Saturday, December 24, 2011 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 25, 2011 at 8 a.m. Enjoy the playlist, video and audio from the event here on the web. December 23, 2011

THE LOCAL MUSIC EXCHANGE - October 24- 28, 2011

We've partnered with WFUV in New York, to swap 5 of each city's favorite bands and play them on the air. Each night at 6:30, Mark Wheat will talk with WFUV's Rita Houston and play one song from the Twin Cities and one from New York, proving that there's more to Minnesota than Prince and the Replacements, and that New York's not all hipsters in skinny jeans. Come back each day for free MP3s of the featured bands.

Monday, October 24, 2011

Dead Man Winter "Nicotine"
Class Actress "Weekend"

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps "Tank Top"
Steven Bernstein's MTO Plays Sly "Family Affair (feat. Antony Hegarty)"

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Halloween, Alaska "Empire Waist"
James Maddock "Beautiful Now"

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Joey Ryan And The Inks "The Incredible Mr. Flowers"
The Lisps "Are We At The Movies"

Friday, October 28, 2011

Pink Mink "Black Door"
Ollabelle "Be Your Woman"

THEFT OF THE DIAL

Theft of the Dial: Black Keys

December 12, 2011 by Barb Abney

This July, The Black Keys were kind enough to drop in and do a Theft Of The Dial session with us before playing a long Sold-Out show with Cage the Elephant. We talked about some of their numerous and exciting upcoming projects and where they see their careers going forward. Dan geeked out regarding Doctor John. Patrick explained why he no longer runs a record label. And each of the gents gave compelling reasons for choosing their playlists.

Theft of the Dial: Jeff Tweedy

December 6, 2011

Frontman of the wildly successful band Wilco, Jeff Tweedy has been with the group since their inception in 1994, helping to pen some of indie music's most iconic albums such as *Summerteeth* and *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* and their latest, *The Whole Love*. Tweedy dropped by the station to record another Theft of the Dial with Jill Riley.

Theft of the Dial: Tunde Adebimpe of TV On The Radio

November 10, 2011

Late last August, TV on the Radio were in the Twin Cities for a couple of shows at First Avenue. When there was a break in the action, the band's singer, Tunde dropped by the station to record another Theft of the Dial.

MUSICHEADS

Musicheads – November 23, 2011

Join Bill Deville while he runs down the weeks music headlines, talks about the next big thing to emerge from Belgium; Black Box Revelation, speaks with Ximena Sariana about what she's listening to these days on The Guest List, reviews the new album from Noel Gallagher of Oasis fame on The Music Meeting, Matt Perkins, The Current's Marketing Coordinator will talk about his favorite jazz album by Dave Brubeck on The Essentials and we'll get a sneak peak of a track from the new record from Guided By Voices.

Musicheads - November 16, 2011

This week on Musicheads, join Bill Deville while he runs down the week's music headlines; speaks with Matthew Murphy of The Wombats about what he's listening to these days on The Guest List; reviews the new album from Mayer Hawthorne titled "How Do You Do" on The Music Meeting; and welcomes Barb Abney, host on The Current, to talk about one of her favorite albums, Prince's "Controversy," on The Essentials. Plus, we'll get a sneak peak of a track from the new record by The Roots.

Musicheads - November 9, 2011

This week on Musicheads, join Bill Deville while he runs down the weeks music headlines; talks about the next big thing to emerge from New Zealand, Kimbra; speaks with Dan Mangan about what he's listening to these days on The Guest List; reviews the new album from M83 titled "Hurry Up, we're Dreaming" on The Music Meeting; and welcomes Jade, The Current's In The Studio host, to talk about her favorite songstress Fiona Apple on The Essentials. Plus, we'll get a sneak peak of a track from the new record from David Lynch's new album.

Musicheads - November 2, 2011

Join Bill DeVille while he runs down the week's music headlines; talks about MNDR, the next big thing to emerge from the electro-pop world; speaks with Henry Rollins about what he's listening to these days on The Guest List; reviews the new album from Tom Waits, "Bad As Me," on The Music Meeting; and invites Ali Lozoff, The Current's Marketing Manager, to talk about her favorite songstress Nina Simone on The Essentials. Plus, we'll get a sneak peak of a track from the new record from The Bees (formerly known as A Band Of Bees).

Musicheads - October 26, 2011

This time on Musicheads...we talked about about Big Boi's recent drug bust in the Musicast. Bob Dylan, Jack White sing unreleased Hank Williams song on upcoming album. The Horrors' new album is out today! Melanie talked about Little Dragon in the Next Big Thing! Mount Moriah discussed a few of their favorites for the Guest List! In the Music Meeting it's the new album from The Vaccines! Jim McGuinn and I and a very special guest chat about Matthew Sweet's Girlfriend album in the Essentials! And we featured a brand new track from the band Beirut's upcoming album.

Musicheads - October 19, 2011

This week on Musicheads, Bill DeVille updates us on the news from Google, Sonic Youth's split and Leonard Cohen's collaboration with his son. We hear Mary Lucia confess her undying devotion to Spoon's Gimme Fiction, and Melanie Walker brings us the next big thing from Down Under. Plus, a discussion of the new Feist record, and a sneak peek at Kate Bush's new record.

Musicheads - October 12, 2011

In the Musicast segment, the big story is the death of Amy Winehouse. Colin Melloy, from the Decemberists, has a children's book on the way! We also checked out a track from the Swedish band, Little Dragon, whose album is out today! For the Chart Breakouts we sampled a new one from Jill Scott, featuring Anthony Hamilton. Melanie talked about the new album from Washed Out in The Next Big Thing.

Musicheads - October 4, 2011

This week on Musicheads, news on Sylvia Robinson's passing, Emo's in Austin shutting its doors and the new biography from Courtney Love. Miles Kane is The Next Big Thing, and Wild Flag is the topic of the Music Meeting. All this, plus Mark Wheat shares his essential record from the band The Fall.

TOP 89 of 2011 – December 31, 2011

Thanks for voting in our annual year-end poll — the results are now in! Also check out the results from our bonus categories, or just see how things stacked up against the past few years. Happy New Year from 89.3 The Current!

1. Bon Iver — Bon Iver
2. Adele — 21
3. Fleet Foxes — Helplessness Blues
4. The Black Keys — El Camino
5. Foster The People — Torches
6. The Decemberists — The King Is Dead
7. Florence and the Machine — Ceremonials
8. Dawes — Nothing Is Wrong
9. My Morning Jacket — Circuital
10. Wilco — The Whole Love

11. tUnE-yArDs — w h o k i l l
12. Fitz and The Tantrums — Pickin' Up The Pieces
13. Dessa — Castor, The Twin
14. Atmosphere — The Family Sign
15. Mason Jennings — Minnesota
16. Iron and Wine — Kiss Each Other Clean
17. Radiohead — The King Of Limbs
18. M83 — Hurry Up, We're Dreaming
19. Doomtree — No Kings
20. Foo Fighters — Wasting Light
21. 4ontheFloor — 4X4
22. Girl Talk — All Day
23. Beirut — The Rip Tide
24. Band of Horses — Infinite Arms
25. Feist — Metals
26. TV On The Radio — Nine Types Of Light
27. Tom Waits — Bad As Me
28. Ryan Adams — Ashes and Fire
29. The Head and the Heart — The Head and the Heart
30. Cults — Cults
31. St. Vincent — Strange Mercy
32. Coldplay — Mylo Xyloto
33. Death Cab for Cutie — Codes and Keys
34. Tapes 'n Tapes — Outside
35. Beastie Boys — Hot Sauce Committee, Pt. 2
36. Polica — Polica
37. Lykke Li — Wounded Rhymes
38. Eddie Vedder — Ukulele Songs
39. Low — C'mon
40. Blitzen Trapper — American Goldwing
41. Haley Bonar — Golder
42. Rogue Valley — False Floors
43. Belle and Sebastian — Write About Love
44. The Rural Alberta Advantage — Departing
45. The Wombats — This Modern Glitch
46. The Strokes — Angles
47. Phantogram — Nightlife EP
48. Cake — Showroom of Compassion
49. The Jayhawks — Mockingbird Time
50. Bright Eyes — The People's Key
51. Danger Mouse and Daniele Luppi — Rome
52. Cage The Elephant — Thank You, Happy Birthday
53. Arctic Monkeys — Suck It and See
54. The Kills — Blood Pressures
55. James Blake — James Blake
56. Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps — Little Wind

57. Halloween, Alaska — All Night The Calls Came In
58. Sims — Bad Time Zoo
59. Rogue Valley — Geese in the Flyway
60. Cold War Kids — Mine Is Yours
61. Noel Gallagher — Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
62. Raphael Saadiq — Stone Rollin'
63. DeVotchKa — 100 Lovers
64. Peter Wolf Crier — Garden of Arms
65. Astronautalis — This Is Our Science
66. Kings Of Leon — Come Around Sundown
67. Sharon Van Etten — Epic
68. Deerhunter — Halcyon Digest
69. Red Hot Chili Peppers — I'm With You
70. The Joy Formidable — The Big Roar
71. PJ Harvey — Let England Shake
72. Ben Folds and Nick Hornby — Lonely Avenue
73. Lucinda Williams — Blessed
74. Broken Bells — Meyrin Fields EP
75. Wye Oak — Civilian
76. The Decemberists — Long Live The King
77. The Roots — Undun
78. Various Artists — Minnesota Beatle Project Vol. 3
79. Jessica Lea Mayfield — Tell Me
80. Cut Copy — Zonoscope
81. Two Door Cinema Club — Tourist History
82. Washed Out — Within and Without
83. Lupe Fiasco — Lasers
84. Girls — Father, Son, Holy Ghost
85. Drive-By Truckers — Go-Go Boots
86. Pearl Jam — Twenty
87. Laura Marling — A Creature I Don't Know
88. Grouplove — Never Trust a Happy Song
89. Explosions in the Sky — Take Care, Take Care, Take Care

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT

The Current

July 1 to Sept. 30, 2011

In studio performances

Megafaun performs live in The Current studio

Tied to the well-known Eau Claire, WI scene, folk-rockers Megafaun began as brothers in jazz band then morphed into a band known as DeYarmond Edison. That band moved to North Carolina, where they enjoyed the warm weather, but eventually lost their lead singer, who went on to be Bon Iver. They became the three piece that has released three records under the name Megafaun. And this month, they've added a member to the band and released their fourth, self-titled album packed with tight harmonies and Neil Young-like melodies. September 30, 2011

OMD perform in The Current studios

Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark, better known by their acronym OMD, began their career in the UK in 1978, trading in synth-pop, new wave and experimental post-punk sounds for nearly two decades before lead singer and bassist Andy McCluskey (at that point the only remaining original member) called it quits. The original line-up reunited in 2005, and have been touring and recording ever since. September 28, 2011

The Cloak Ox perform in The Current studio

Members of Fog, Lateduster, and Dosh have joined forces under the name The Cloak Ox. After taking a three year break from songwriting, Fog front man Andrew Broder started writing songs that he knew his friends Jeremy Ylvisaker (Alpha Consumer), Mark Erickson (Fog), and Martin Dosh could help bring to life. September 25, 2011

Grieves performs live in The Current studio

Performing under the name Grieves, the hip hop duo comprised of Benjamin Laub and multi-instrumentalist Josh Karp, who goes by Budo are one of the latest additions to the local label Rhymesayers. While both came from the Seattle scene, it was until they were both in central Illinois that they met. September 23, 2011

Peter Wolf Crier perform in The Current studios

Peter Wolf Crier have graced The Current studios and the MPR State Fair booth multiple times, and their popularity among Twin Cities music fans is widespread and enduring. We were excited to welcome them back to the studio. September 23, 2011

Viva Voce performs in The Current studios

Kevin and Anita Robinson are a husband and wife team that call Portland, Ore. home. They have been playing together for over 15 years as both Viva Voce and as part of Blue Giant. The band was in town for a show on the U of M Campus last week, and they dropped in for a very special, rare acoustic set. September 20, 2011

Active Child performs in The Current studio

Active Child is the musical project of New Jersey native and Los Angeles resident Pat Grossi. While his sound incorporates a number of different styles, it is his amazing voice and echoing harps that stands out on his first full-length album. September 19, 2011

Mason Jennings performs at the Westminster Church

This month, on the eve of the release of his new album Minnesota, Mason Jennings and 89.3 The Current teamed up for a road-trip tour featuring .shows in intimate venues in Minneapolis, Duluth and Mankato, with benefits going to help Hunger-Free MN. Now, we bring you audio and video from his performance at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis. September 15, 2011

The Jayhawks perform at the Fitzgerald Theater

The Jayhawks have been a staple of the alt-country scene since their debut 25 years ago, right up until they went on hiatus in the mid-'00s. The band reunited recently, and joined 89.3 The Current for an invite-only performance at the historic Fitzgerald Theater before the release of their new album. September 13, 2011

Halloween, Alaska performs in The Current studio

Since forming in 2002 Halloween, Alaska has become one of the most beloved electro art-rock outfits in the Twin Cities. Their latest album "All Night The Calls Came In," out on Amble Down Records, is their most stripped down offering to date. September 11, 2011

Villa Rosa performs in The Current studio

Villa Rosa is the recent collaboration of longtime friends Maria Isa and Muja Messiah. Maria Isa, The local Latin MC, singer, and actress had lent her vocals to Muja Messiah's 2008 "Adventures of BBoy DBoy," and 2010 "M-16's" releases. September 11, 2011

Dead Man Winter performs in The Current studio

When Dave Simonett, Ryan Young and Tim Saxhaug are not playing at break neck speeds in Trampled by Turtles they can be found with electric instruments in tow performing as Dead Man Winter. Joined by country blues guitarist Erik Koskinen, and drummer Noah Levy, Dead Man Winter takes the tempo down a few notches from Trampled by Turtles and adds a bit of country charm. August 13, 2011

Mystery Palace performs in The Current Studio

Mystery Palace is the local electronic project from the former 12 Rods member, Ryan Olcott, jazz bassist James Buckley and drummer Joey Van Phillips. Olcott, who also fills his time producing bands in the Twin Cities, produced their latest effort, Nervio. August 7, 2011

The Bombay Sweets perform in The Current studio

You'd think someone who's married to a food critic is more likely to be at restaurants rather than rock shows, but that isn't the case for Bombay Sweets' Nathan Grumdahl. Married to local food writer, Dara Moskowitz Grumdahl, he enjoys his duck confit just as much as his garage-surf-rock band. The former guitarist for Selby Tigers and Monarques, Grumdahl started the Bombay Sweets as a one-man-band and added His Mischief drummer Jeff Brown to the mix shortly after. August 7, 2011

Ghost In The Water perform in The Current studio

Husband and wife duo Nathan and Mandy Tensen-Woolery, formerly of the local band Fitzgerald, have shifted their sound from quirky folk to electronic, synth-dance in their latest project Ghost in the Water. Their new self-released record, Shooting Stars and Battle Scars draws on heavy influences from the 80's. July 31, 2011

Ken Stringfellow performs in The Current studios

In addition to his solo work, Ken Stringfellow is, or has been, in R.E.M., Big Star, The Minus Five, The Disciplines and The Posies, just to name a few. July 27, 2011

Joey Ryan and the Inks perform in The Current studio

Beneath its pleasant exterior, the music of Joey Ryan & the Inks is a study in contrasts: sunny California vibes with earthy Midwestern roots; hummable melodies with a tinge of melancholy. The sound was established on the band's 2009 debut, "Well, Here We Are Then," and the group continues in the same vein on their brand new sophomore effort, "Dennis Lane", which was once again recorded and produced by the group in their home studio. July 24, 2011

Old 97's perform live in The Current studio

This group of Texans were at the forefront of the alt-country movement in the 90's. For the past 20 years, this innovative four-piece has showed us their genre defying skills. As they effortlessly combine reckless punk with catchy pop hooks that are sure to not exclude the down home twang they're known and loved for. Some have described their music as a stylistic imagination of The Buzzcocks from Dallas, TX as opposed to England. July 22, 2011

John Maus performs in The Current studio

In the vein of Sam Beam (of Iron & Wine) and Alexis Krauss (of Sleigh Bells) John Maus is the latest in a recent slew of teachers that rock. The Austin, MN native teaches Political Philosophy and Theory at the University of Hawaii while working towards a PhD in Political Science. July 17, 2011

The Rosebuds perform live in The Current studios

Kelly Crisp and Ivan Howard have a relationship that lies beyond band mates. Forming in 2001 immediately after their marriage, the two found themselves in a sea of differences years later and decided to call it quits after their fourth album in 2008. Fortunately for their dedicated indie rock and folk fans the two discovered a whirlwind of beauty and remorse as they define their relationship not only as musicians but as friends after a tumultuous marriage. July 15, 2011

Jolie Holland performs in The Current studios

Jolie Holland may have once been a founding member of the Vancouver group the Be Good Tanyas, but she was born in Texas. It's those American roots, perhaps, that color her solo career, which is built upon a rich tapestry of different Americana styles, from bluegrass to blues to folk. July 15, 2011

Mount Moriah performs in The Current studios

The Durham, N.C.-based band Mount Moriah only just released their self-titled debut LP a couple of months ago, preceeded by 2010's "Letting Go" EP, but guitarist Jenks Miller first started a band under the Biblically-influenced name Mount Moriah around five years ago. After some drastic shifts in sound and line-up, the band's sound has settled into a sweet, melancholy strain of folk music. July 15, 2011

Howler performs in The Current studio

Howler may have been started as a side project by Jordan Gatesmith from Total Babe, but the attention they are receiving is front and center. Howler was recently signed to London based Rough Trade Records home of The Smiths, The Strokes, and Belle and Sebastian. July 10, 2011

Pink Mink performs in The Current studio

After conquering the 2010 Picked to Click Poll, playing First Avenue's Best New Band Showcase and claiming the hearts of Twin Cities music fans, Pink Mink is ready to release their debut self-titled album. July 3, 2011

The Blind Shake perform in The Current studio

The trio of Jim Blaha, Mike Blaha, and Dave Roper have now been gracing the Twin Cities with their brand of noise rock--with its hints of blues and 60s garage-psych--for the better part of a decade. July 3, 2011

Features on The Current

THE CURRENT AT THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

The 4onthefloor performs at the Minnesota State Fair

With as many bass drums as they have members in the band (hint: it's the number you'd expect given their band name), Vita.mn Are You Local? winners 4onthefloor kick out the blues-rock jams with awesome foot-stompin' intensity. They performed at the Minnesota State Fair for MPR Day. September 2, 2011

Tapes 'n Tapes perform at the Minnesota State Fair

Minneapolis indie quartet Tapes 'n Tapes may have been enjoying Pitchfork accolades and seeing their songs in commercials as early as their 2005 debut LP "The Loon," but they remain a Twin Cities band through and through. The Current was proud to have the band join us at our booth at this year's Minnesota State Fair. September 2, 2011

Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps perform live at the Minnesota State Fair

Local indie-folk darlings Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps may have begun their career with frontwoman Smith's early solo shows at the 400 Bar, but by now they've graduating headlining the main room at First Avenue for a show later this month. The Current was thrilled to welcome the band to our State Fair stage for the Local Show. September 2, 2011

Haley Bonar performs at the Minnesota State Fair

Singer-songwriter Haley Bonar is one of the staples of the Minnesota music scene, so it took a lot of people by surprise when she moved to Portland, Ore. two years ago. Well, the good news is that she's back in our wonderful state, and the better news is that she performed on our State Fair stage! September 1, 2011

Sims performs live at the Minnesota State Fair

Local rapper and Doomtree collective member Sims has had an amazing year, with his sophomore album "Bad Time Zoo" earning much critical and fan attention upon its February release. The Current was proud to welcome him to our State Fair stage. August 31, 2011

Communist Daughter performs at the Minnesota State Fair

Communist Daughter, the Wisconsin-via-Minneapolis quintet formed a couple of years ago by the onetime frontman of Friends Like These, excel at the kind of mellow, catchy folk-rock that is a staple of the Twin Cities rock scene. August 30, 2011

Jeremy Messersmith performs live at the Minnesota State Fair

With his three stellar albums and excellent live shows, Jeremy Messersmith has endeared himself to The Current audience. We were thrilled to invite him to perform at our stage at the Minnesota State Fair. August 29, 2011

Peter Wolf Crier perform at the Minnesota State Fair

Peter Wolf Crier have graced The Current studios and the MPR State Fair booth before, and their popularity among Twin Cities music fans is widespread and enduring, so it was a no-brainer for us to bring them back to our stage at the Fair for another stellar performance live on this week's Local Show with David Campbell. August 28, 2011

The Twilight Hours perform at the Minnesota State Fair

Formed by former members of '80s and '90s Minneapolis greats Trip Shakespeare and Semisonic, The Twilight Hours came onto the local music scene already steeped in the cities' indie tradition. August 26, 2011

Rogue Valley perform at the Minnesota State Fair

The Current was proud to welcome Rogue Valley to our stage at the State Fair. August 24, 2011

Two Harbors perform live at the State Fair

Two Harbors have been making lovely, subtle indie-rock-'n'-pop right here in the Twin Cities for about five years now, and The Current was thrilled to have them to play at our booth at the State Fair. August 22, 2011

THEFT OF THE DIAL

Theft of the Dial: Neil Gaiman

August 21, 2011 by Mark Wheat

Neil was the guest on the final show of the Wits season and was nice enough to stop by that day to do a Theft of the Dial with us too. We enjoyed chatting about music and his life, he's a Brit like me and now lives just across the border in Wisconsin, and he is the most award-bedecked DJ we've ever had in the studio so we gave him a whole hour, this week on The Current Presents.

Theft of the Dial: Black Keys

July 19, 2011 by Barb Abney

A couple of weeks ago, The Black Keys were kind enough to drop in and do a Theft Of The Dial session with us before playing a long Sold-Out show with Cage the Elephant. We talked about some of their numerous and exciting upcoming projects and where they see their careers going forward. Dan geeked out regarding Doctor John. Patrick explained why he no longer runs a record label. And each of the gents gave compelling reasons for choosing their playlists.

Theft of the Dial: Ira Glass

July 12, 2011 by Steve Seel

Ever wonder what makes the host of one of public radio's most beloved shows tick? What tunes he might play if given an hour to control the decks? Well wonder no more. Ira Glass sat in the studio with Steve Seel for an extended session of Theft of the Dial, and you'll be surprised at what you might hear... (hint, it might include a collaboration with a certain famous cousin of his).

Theft of the Dial: Florence + the Machine

July 8, 2011 by Jill Riley

On Friday June 17, Florence + the Machine played live at the Minnesota Zoo. Florence Welch was kind enough to record a Theft of Dial with us before the show. Believe it or not, we recorded live from a restroom facility because it was the quietest place we could find. Florence was a good sport and did a great job playing guest DJ for us.

MUSICHEADS

Musicheads - September 27, 2011

Musicheads check out new tunes from DJ Shadow, Florence and The Machine, Blake Mills and ODB. Bill will also be talking to Peter Wolf Crier about what music they've been listening to lately, check out Gary Clark Jr. the next big thing in blues music, review the new St. Vincent album "Strange Mercy", and revisit a classic album with Jill Riley: The Flying Burrito Brothers, "The Gilded Palace Of Sin"!

Musicheads - September 20, 2011

Music news about Radiohead, Interscope records, Snoop Dogg and Megafaun. Laura Marling is this week's next big thing, and we feature an essential album from Willie Nelson. Plus a sneak peek at a new track from Kasabian.

Musicheads - September 14, 2011

This week on Musicheads, Bill covers the news, talks with TV on the Radio's Tunde Adebimpe, tackles the new Blitzen Trapper release, and previews a new track from Wavves.

Musicheads - August 30, 2011

The latest Musicheads, with news, record releases for 8/31, and a discussion about the Horrors' new record "Skying". Jacquie Fuller picks Wilco's "Summerteeth" as the 'essential' record, and we leave you with a sneak peak of a new M83 song.

Musicheads - August 09, 2011

This time on Musicheads...we talked about about Big Boi's recent drug bust in the Musicast. Bob Dylan, Jack White sing unreleased Hank Williams song on upcoming album. The Horrors' new album is out today! Melanie talked about Little Dragon in the Next Big Thing! Mount Moriah discussed a few of their favorites for the Guest List! In the Music Meeting it's the new album from The Vaccines! Jim McGuinn and I and a very special guest chat about Matthew Sweet's Girlfriend album in the Essentials! And we featured a brand new track from the band Beirut's upcoming album.

Musicheads - August 02, 2011

In the Musicast segment, Jill and I talked about MTV bringing back 120 minutes with Matt Pinfield, as MTV just turned 30....remember the 1st video played? Kings of Leon have cancelled their tour. Damon Albarn is a busy guy! He now is busy working on a new Congo project. Melanie Walker talked about Cults! Rhett Miller of Old 97's talked about some of his favorite music. One of his recent faves is Those Darlins'!

Musicheads - July 27, 2011

In the Musicast segment, the big story is the death of Amy Winehouse. Colin Melloy, from the Decemberists, has a children's book on the way! We also checked out a track from the Swedish band, Little Dragon, whose album is out today! For the Chart Breakouts we sampled a new one from Jill Scott, featuring Anthony Hamilton. Melanie talked about the new album from Washed Out in The Next Big Thing.

Musicheads - July 19, 2011

Jill Riley dropped in for the Musicast. We talked about long awaited album from The Shins! They are playing in San Francisco in August! Headlines: Rilo Kiley splits up, Weezer set sail...literally! and They Might Be Giants are back with a new album! Their 15th album is called Join Us! The Muppets are back in action with the Green Album, featuring a ton of artists you've heard on The Current.

Musicheads - July 12, 2011

It's the debut of the newly revamped Musicheads. It has taken on more of a "music magazine" format. Let us know what you think?? The show will feature different segments with folks from The Current contributing to the show.

Musicheads - July 05, 2011

This time Bill welcomes Mark Wheat and Radio Free Current and Local Show host, David Campbell. The cast discusses the new collaboration of Danger Mouse and Italian composer Danielle Luppi, Rafael Saadiq's new Stone Rollin' album and the new release from local artist Haley Bonar called, Golder. This week's question, "What summer concert are you looking forward too?"

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT
THE CURRENT
April 1 to June 30, 2011

In studio performances

Dan Israel performs in The Current studio

Dan Israel was the first guest on The Local Show and returned to the Current Studio in support of his 11th full length release, "Crosstown Traveler." Dan stopped by to chat about his lengthy music career and what it takes to be a dad who rocks. June 26, 2011

Zebulon Pike perform in The Current Studio

After forming in 2002 and discarding more metal sounding names, members of Zebulon Pike found that the name of the early American explorer was the best fit for their blend of instrumental prog-doom metal. Since then Zebulon Pike have won numerous awards including City Pages "Best New Band of 2004," Best Hard Rock Group" and "Best Hard Rock Recording" at the 2004 Minnesota Music Awards. June 19, 2011

Bob Mould Live in the UBS Forum

Bob Mould, co-founder of the seminal Minneapolis punk band Husker Du, as well as the hit-making alt rock group Sugar, has written an autobiography. It's called "See a Little Light: The Trail of Rage and Melody." He read from the new book, talked with Mary Lucia and played a few songs in the UBS Forum at Minnesota Public Radio. June 16, 2011

Okkervil River In-Studio Performance

Taking their name from a short story written by Russian author, Tatyana Tolstaya, the Austin, Texas folk-rock band could literally be called a garage band - they recorded their debut album in a garage before being signed to Jagjaguwar records where they released four more critically-acclaimed records. June 12, 2011

Roe Family Singer perform in The Current studio

The Roe Family Singers have long been a mainstay at the 331 Club playing every Monday night, minus two, for the past six years. Formed by the husband and wife duo of Quillan and Kim Roe in 2004, now nine members strong the Roe Family Singers are fine tuned folk organization including a musical saw and jug player. June 12, 2011

The Head and the Heart perform live in The Current studio

"Soaring vocals" seems to be how Seattle's The Head and the Heart tend to be characterized in many of its music reviews. Writers use those words to describe the multiple part harmonies anchored in solid songwriting that are all over their debut, self-titled release on Sub Pop Records. June 8, 2011

David Bazan performs live in The Current studio

David Bazan, who led Pedro the Lion and dabbled in side projects like The Headphones and Undertow Orchestra, began his solo career in 2009 when he released "Curse Your Branches," which touched on personal themes like faith and family. With his latest album "Strange Negotiations," Bazan has changed his songwriting focus from personal struggles to larger, societal struggles including themes of the current political and social climate. June 7, 2011

Sam Roberts Band performs in The Current studio

The Sam Roberts band, the five-person Canadian indie-rock band led by their namesake singer-songwriter, recently released their fourth full-length album, Collider. The album offers more of the band's trademark catchy, classic-rock-infused style, but features surprising and interesting guest contributions from members of Chicago rockers Califone and Afrobeat revivalists Antibalas. June 6, 2011

Face Candy perform in The Current studio

How does a band like Face Candy bounce back from losing its founder and one of its core members, Michael "Eyedea" Larsen, this past October? By releasing a new album, of course. The jazz/rap/trip-hop/improvisational group's latest release, Waste Age Teen Land, is the last album Eyedea performed on and produced before his untimely death. June 4, 2011

Thao and Mirah perform live in The Current studio

Does a whole equal the sum of its parts? For Thao Nguyen and Mirah Yom Tov Zeitlyn, two accomplished solo artists plus producer Merrill Garbus of tUnE-yArDs, equals a complementary push-pull of an album. June 2, 2011

Sloan performs live in The Current studio

Unusual for most artists, each member of the band Sloan, which has maintained the same lineup for decades, contributes equally to songwriting. And at their live shows, each member switches instruments accordingly. They got their name from a friend, who was nicknamed "the Slow One" by his boss, but in the man's French accent, it sounded more like "Sloan." June 2, 2011

Glasvegas performs live in The Current studio

The famously Scottish four-piece Glasvegas (you don't have to listen hard to hear those Glasgow accents) has been called the next step in UK rock evolution after the Libertines and the Arctic Monkeys. Short-listed for the 2009 Mercury Prize, Glasvegas frontmen and cousins James and Rab Allan hope their lush, emphatic arena rock and emotionally dramatic songwriting inspire fans at their live shows to "lose their inhibitions, get a little bit inebriated, have some romance with a stranger." June 1, 2011

Night Moves perform in The Current studio

Minneapolis band Night Moves' catchy combination of MGMT-like vocals, country strains, and electronic production have made them an up-and-coming local favorite. Featuring members of Mouthful of Bees, Food Pyramid, and Battle Royal, Night Moves have been named a "newish" band to keep an eye on by a few local publications. May 29, 2011

Plan B performs live in The Current studio

British rapper turned crooner is crossing seas with success. Ben Drew also known as Plan B emerged onto the London scene back in 2006 with his debut album "Who Needs Actions When You Got Words" that offered raps and rhymes that were comparable to his mate Mike Skinner of The Streets. Greatly influenced by his love for Motown and an avid appreciation for rap, it is no surprise his U.K released 2010 concept album "The Defamation of Strickland Banks" went straight to number one on the U.K. album charts. May 27, 2011

Tommy Stinson performs in The Current studios

Tommy Stinson got his start in music as the bass player for legendary garage punkers The Replacements. May 26, 2011

The Baseball Project perform live in The Current studio

In 1992 Scott McCaughey and Steve Wynn were nothing but two buddies bonded over a love of baseball. Fast forward almost twenty years with the addition of drummer Linda Pitmon and R.E.M's Peter Buck and this supergroup is now known for their original songs about America's favorite pastime in an alternative rock and roots fashion. May 24, 2011

Meat Puppets perform in The Current studios

Brothers Chris and Curt Kirkwood formed Meat Puppets nearly 30 years ago. They were "grunge" before it was a genre and "alternative" before it was a format. They were a major influence on Kurt Cobain and Nirvana's music. They've been through the ringer with record labels, touring and drugs, yet somehow they're still around to release Lollipop, their 13th studio album. May 23, 2011

Little Man performs in The Current Studio

Though Chris Perricelli originally hails from Massachusetts, it wasn't until he moved to Chicago that he formed his current band Little Man. After the band moved to the Twin Cities next and built a reputation by constantly touring and gigging around town, City Pages named them the Best Rock Band of 2007. May 19, 2011

Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears perform live in The Current studio

Formed in Austin, Texas in 2007 the retro-blues soul band Black Joe Lewis and the Honeybears began after lead-singer Joe Lewis picked up a guitar at a pawn shop. Heavily influenced by James Brown and Howlin' Wolf, Lewis played around town before getting the attention of locals Spoon and Okkervil River. May 18, 2011

James Blake performs live in The Current studio

English electronic, post-dubstep producer and singer/songwriter James Blake has only been making music for a short time - less than two years, but he's already making waves in electronic music. With a goal of trying to create new sounds, he accomplishes that his background in piano and harmonics. May 16, 2011

Adam Svec performs in The Current studio

A former member of dearly departed local band The Glad Version, Adam Svec has been warmly received since he debuted as a solo artist in 2008. Svec is a prolific songwriter, having come out with three albums in as many years. May 15, 2011

Brian Just Band perform in The Current studio

Like many acts these days, the Brian Just Band got their start by accident. Brian and his bandmate Josie invited their friend Rick to play trumpet on their couples' duet, but when he sang the horn part instead, the resulting harmonies inspired them to start a band together. May 8, 2011

Brute Heart perform in The Current studio

Brute Heart is probably the only Minneapolis band with not one, but two members named Crystal. The three female vocalists lead the pack of Twin Cities avant-garde musicians with haunting (at times, howling) vocals and moody instrumental landscapes. May 8, 2011

Manheat perform in The Current studio

When deciding what to name their band the term for the residual heat left on a chair after an individual has vacated it seemed the perfect fit, Manheat. Duluth natives, Manheat display their hard rock sensibilities by playing loud and fast. May 1, 2011

The Pains of Being Pure at Heart performs in The Current studio

New York City indie quartet The Pains of Being Pure at Heart split the difference between two of '90s indie's most distinctive sounds -- twee-pop and shoegaze. The result is music that is often swathed in reverb and echo but that maintains the honesty, intimacy and innocence of the best indie-pop, all played with an infectious, propulsive energy. April 26, 2011

Tony Allen performs in The Current studio

Tony Allen is a Nigerian born, self taught musician who for eleven years, was the drummer and musical director for the legendary band Fela Kuti and Africa 70. Allen along with Kuti have been credited with pioneering afrobeat music. His latest project, "Secret Agent" was released in early 2010. April 25, 2011

No Bird Sing perform in The Current studio

No Bird Sing's Eric Blair (Joe Horton), Graham O'Brien, and Robert Mulrennan continue their bold and raw approach to hip-hop on their sophomore release Theft of The Commons. Theft of the Commons is built on more organic ground than their 2009 self-titled debut. Recorded in a barn in rural Minnesota the band drew inspiration from the stark autumn landscape. April 22, 2011

Blueprint performs in The Current studios

Hip-hop artist, skilled freestyler, and producer Blueprint first received attention when he appeared on a track off of producer RJD2's Deadringer. After that, he and RJD2 formed the hip-hop duo Soul Position and came out with several albums before Blueprint struck out on his own. April 21, 2011

Iron and Wine perform live in The Current studio

It's been nearly 10 years since Sam Beam donned the Iron and Wine moniker and released his debut "The Creek Drank The Cradle" in 2002. Since then, he's expanded the arrangements from his voice and an acoustic guitar to including a variety of other instruments, and he continues the trend on his newest album "Kiss Each Other Clean." April 19, 2011

Royal Bangs perform live in The Current studio

The Knoxville, TN trio Royal Bangs have come a long way after playing an old soccer arena and coffee shops as teenagers. After starting their band in high school, growing to a five-member band that played SXSW in 2009, they decided to downsize their band to the current three piece. In recording their latest effort, "Flux Outside" the band enlisted the help of Scott Minor of Sparklehorse to engineer and help produce the record. April 18, 2011

Haley Bonar performs live in The Current studio

From Duluth to the Twin Cities to Portland and back, local singer-songwriter Haley Bonar, has used her change of scenery as inspiration on her fourth album, Golder. April 18, 2011

Atmosphere performs live in The Current studio

After over ten years making music together, local hip hop duo Atmosphere are are focusing their latest effort, "The Family Sign" on the people they care about the most - their family. April 15, 2011

Low performs in the Current Studio

Duluth-based indie-rock mainstays Low have returned with their ninth full-length album, "C'mon," which features guest turns by Wilco guitarist Nels Cline as well as members of Trampled by Turtles and the Trans Siberian Orchestra (yes, you read that correctly). April 15, 2011

Two Door Cinema Club performs in The Current studio

Two Door Cinema Club are a band from Bangor and Donaghadee, Northern Ireland formed in 2007. They're signed to French record label Kitsune Music, through which they released their debut album "Tourist History" on 1 March 2010. April 11, 2011

Dom performs in The Current studio

The Worcester, Massachusetts quartet Dom signed to Astralwerks last fall. Since then they've released their debut EP "Sun Bronzed Greek Gods" and have been touring relentlessly. They dropped by for an in-studio while in town for a gig at The Entry. April 11, 2011

Usonia perform in The Current studio

Up-and-coming local band Usonia's jittery, energetic pop feels refreshingly retro. With Beach Boys-like harmonies and new wave beats Usonia creates infectious mix of old and new. April 10, 2011

Foster the People performs live in The Current studio

After a whirl-wind year of touring Foster the People, known for their synth-laced hazy pop, brought an acoustic set to The Current studio. The California trio spoke to Mark Wheat about their love of surfing, touring, and the German website that kick started their internet buzz. April 8, 2011

Grouplove performs live in The Current studio

The five-piece rock band Grouplove began in 2009 when they started playing together during their free time in Greece for an art residency. When the world-travelers got back to the states they wanted to meet up again and keep working on the music they had been making abroad. April 7, 2011

Sharon Van Etten performs live in The Current studios

Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter Sharon Van Etten admits that she's still trying to find her voice, which she says is dependent upon what she's listening to -- anything from folk to hardcore. She plays April 6 at the Cedar Cultural Center. April 6, 2011

J. Mascis performs in The Current studios

Best-known as the frontman for Dinosaur Jr., J Mascis is- somewhat surprisingly- laconic and soft-spoken. In interviews, he is known for his minimal responses and repeated disdain for enthusiasm. April 5, 2011

Spyder Baybie Raw Dog and 2% Muck perform in The Current studio

Spyder Baybie Raw Dog and 2% Muck are an ironic, rap duo fronted by Bight Club's Jeremy Nutzman and local producer Eric Muchow. Spyder Baybie Raw Dog and 2% Muck started getting hype in 2009 when they released a free mixtape. April 3, 2011

Features on The Current

ROCK THE GARDEN LIVE BROADCAST, June 18, 2011

My Morning Jacket performs live at Rock the Garden

Rock the Garden headliners My Morning Jacket are one of the last decade's greatest indie rock acts, and we were thrilled to have them perform. The band brushed aside the bad weather and delivered a blistering set of their trademark psychedelic indie-Americana. June 24, 2011

Booker T. Jones Booker T. Jones performs live at Rock the Garden

Booker T. Jones is a bona fide legend. He brought the crowd to its feet and helped break Rock the Garden's rain clouds with his deep, soulful groove. June 22, 2011

Tapes 'n Tapes Tapes 'n Tapes perform Live at Rock the Garden

Minnesota band Tapes n' Tapes had the opening slot at Rock the Garden 2011. Even though it was still raining outside, the band rallied a strong showing of enthusiastic fans. June 18, 2011

MINNESOTA MUSIC DAY Saturday, May 21, 2011

Saturday, May 21, Minnesota Music Day returns to 89.3 The Current. That's right—we'll be playing all Minnesota Music all day long in celebration of our amazing local music community! All of your favorite Current hosts will be on-air throughout the day, and all of our regular Saturday programming will be airing in special all-local editions. So don't forget to tune in for 24 hours of music all from the Land of 10,000 Lakes... and if you like Minnesota Music Day, you'll love our new all-local service Local Current, available now as an online stream and as an HD radio station.

THE CURRENT PRESENTS

Works for Words™

Works for Words with Jeremy Messersmith was recorded at the Fitzgerald Theater on Saturday April 9th. Jeremy gathered up a cast of local players including Dessa, Chris Koza, Lucy Michelle, Brian Tighe, and others for an evening of outstanding lyrics. All guests performed works of their own along with great works by Tom Waits, Prince, Daniel Johnston, Bob Dylan, Bright Eyes, and more. April 20, 2011

The Current Road Trip: Mankato with Roma di Luna

June 19, 2011

On Thursday November 11, 2010, it was time for another Current Road Trip - our series of periodic jaunts out of the Twin Cities to visit towns in greater Minnesota for music and community connection. This time, Jill Riley and Steve Seel went to Mankato, with the wonderful Minneapolis group Roma Di Luna (actually, it's two core members, the husband and wife duo of Alexi and Channy Moon Casselle).

Latino Alternative: Raúl Escobar

June 12, 2011

This week Latino Alternative Vol. 2 returns to *The Current Presents* with music from all over the world, including interviews with local artist "Maria Isa" as well as with Simon Mejia of the Colombian Band "Bomba Estereo." This time Raúl will be joined in hosting by Pablo Miranda.

Maria Isa Interview

Wits: Sandra Bernhard, Rosanne Cash

June 05, 2011

Pitchfork Preview with David Safar

May 29, 2011

When Ryan Schreiber founded a small internet music 'zine in 1995 while living in Minneapolis, he had no idea it would turn into what Pitchfork Media is today. Pitchfork has grown into a wide-reaching web resource for new music, criticism and review, and they've recently stepped out of the virtual world to put on the Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago, bringing long-standing musical favorites to the Midwest to play alongside their favorite new acts for a three-day weekend of musical goodness.

Boy from the North Country: Bob Dylan in Minnesota

May 22, 2011

It's well known that Bob Dylan was born Robert Zimmerman in Duluth and raised in Hibbing, and that he later lived in Minneapolis while he briefly attended the University of Minnesota—where, of course, he dropped out after one year, eventually moving to New York City to kick off his visionary career. However, those early years remain an underexplored part of Dylan's life story, and this documentary seeks to bring them to light.

World of Sound 2.0 - Tony Lopez

May 15, 2011

This week on the Current Presents, cultures and genres collide in Volume 2 of World of Sound. Tony Lopez is the guest host for this week's episode. Borders between nations may be tightening up but music doesn't follow the rules of geopolitics. In fact, it's quite the opposite. From Tex-Mex to Saharan blues; from Cambodian psychedelia to Brazilian garage rock, music transcends and shatters borders. Join Tony this week as he trots around the globe and makes pit stops in Accra, Mexico City, New York City, and Lisbon. He'll also pay a visit to Tunisia and Syria to hear what revolution sounds like. Think of World of Sound as a music travelogue, no passport required.

Straight No Chaser 2 - Melanie Walker

May 08, 2011

One hour of downtempo and electronic music on The Current.

Wits™ with Chuck Klosterman and Craig Finn, hosted by John Moe

May 01, 2011

Latin Crossover Hour - Joseph Mitchell

April 24, 2011

This week, Joseph Mitchell brings you the Latin Crossover Hour: Pop Meets Hop, an exploration of the genre-crossing collaborations between Latin Pop/Rock and Spanish Hip-Hop artists. You will hear how some of today's most notable Latin artists have been able to meld their talents together, defying traditional boundaries and expanding the definition of music. From English to Spanish, Puerto Rico to Spain – this is the Current Presents Latin Crossover Hour: Pop Meets Hop.

A Decade of Twins Musical Memories

April 17, 2011

This week's Current Presents is "A Decade of Twins Music Memories" with host Kevin Dutcher, the Twins Music Director for 11 seasons, from 2000 at the Metrodome through 2010, the inaugural season at Target Field. Over those 10 1/2 years Kevin had the privilege of creating the soundtrack to the Twins remarkable resurgence, from cellar dwellers to 6 playoff appearances in 9 years. Hear the inside scoop and backstories of the songs that rocked the house including songs recorded exclusively for play in the stadium by the Hold Steady and Solid Gold. If you're a fan of music and the Twins, tune in Sunday April 17 at 9 p.m. for music, anecdotes, and a medley of 11 seasons worth of walk up music.

Wits™ with Patton Oswalt

April 10, 2011

This week's Current Presents is a rebroadcast of Wits, hosted by John Moe with musical guide John Munson. Wits was recorded live at the Fitzgerald Theater on Friday, March 25th with Patton Oswalt, Grant Lee Phillips and Paul F. Tompkins. For videos and more on this and upcoming shows, go to mpr.org/wits.

PAIRINGS: Beer and Music

April 3, 2011

Chances are you're familiar with pairings. It's the prix fixe menu you might see out to dinner where the restaurant staff pre-selects each course and pairs it with wine or in more recent trends, beer. At The Current our appetite leans more towards music, but we definitely like our beer too. Voilà! This week we explore the pairings of beer and music.

THEFT OF THE DIAL

Theft Of The Dial: Sandra Bernhard

June 7, 2011 by Barb Abney

A few weeks ago, Sandra Bernhard was in town along with her pal, Rosanne Cash for a Wits appearance at The Fitzgerald Theater. She took a few minutes to drop by for a Theft Of The Dial session before that show.

I have been a big fan of Sandra's for decades. Beginning with my realization that she also sported a gap-toothed smile. Then I fell in love with her stand-up and her acting. I have even "borrowed" from her during member drives by using the quote "..without you, I'm nothing."

Theft of the Dial: Ryan Schreiber of Pitchfork

June 2, 2011 by David Safar

When Ryan Schreiber founded a small internet music zine in 1995 while living in Minneapolis, he had no idea it would turn into what Pitchfork Media is today. Pitchfork has grown into a wide-reaching web resource for new music, criticism and review, and they've recently stepped out of the virtual world to put on the Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago, bringing long-standing musical favorites to the Midwest to play alongside their favorite new acts for a three-day weekend of musical goodness.

Theft Of The Dial: Nadia Sirota

May 3, 2011 by Mark Wheat

Last night for the 8.50pm Monday Meditation I played a viola piece called "Duet #1" from Nadia Sirota's debut album, 'First Things First'.

Not a style that we play a lot but you've heard Nadia's viola before.

She's worked with Grizzly Bear, Jónsi, The National, Ratatat, My Brightest Diamond, and won a Grammy with Arcade Fire. She's a founding member of ACME (the American Contemporary Music Ensemble), yMusic, and the Wordless Music Orchestra. The songs on her album were written by Nico Muhly one of the most talented composers of this generation and they were both part of the recent String Theory shows at The Southern Theater.

Theft Of The Dial: Chuck Klosterman

April 21, 2011 by Barb Abney

I'll admit it: when it comes to Chuck Klosterman I'm a bit of a super-fan. No, I'm not going to kidnap his bunny or stalk his home. But when the opportunity came up to chat with Chuck for a bit, I begged, screamed and lobbied for the opportunity.

Before we handed the airwaves over to Chuck, we spoke about his relationship with Craig Finn, the frontman of The Hold Steady, who has paid to option his book *Fargo Rock City* into a movie. We also touched on his recent hiring at ESPN, his forthcoming book and former Guns 'n Roses axeman, Slash (with uproarious results). I don't think I've ever laughed so hard on the radio.

Theft Of The Dial: Patton Oswalt

April 13, 2011 by Steve Seel

Patton Oswalt might have missed his calling. Okay, he didn't really - if we had been denied his unbelievably hilarious, smart, biting comedy, it'd be a shame. But when he does his old-style "laid-back public radio announcer voice," you will bust a gut laughing at how on-the-money he is. Plus, he has a genuinely awesome taste in music - this despite his own "horrible tastes" he had growing up in suburban Virginia, "going to see Genesis play stadium shows.

MUSICHEADS

Musicheads – June 28, 2011

This time Bill is joined by The Current's "In the Studio Host," Jade & "Local Show" host David Campbell. Up for discussion are the highly anticipated new album from Bon Iver, plus the San Francisco band, Vetiver, and the new collaboration of Thao and Mirah. This week's question: "What's your favorite stormy weather song?"

Musicheads - June 21, 2011

This time on Musicheads Bill is joined by The Current's "In The Studio" host Jade and by Radio Free Current and Local Show host, David Campbell. They'll discuss the highly anticipated new album from Seattle's Fleet Foxes, it's called *Helplessness Blues*. Also up for discussion is new one from Foo Fighters, which debuted at number 1 in several countries, and newcomers, The Weekend round out the show. This week's question: "Who is your favorite singing drummer?"

Musicheads – June 14, 2011

This time Bill is joined by The Current's, In the Studio Host, Jade and Local Show & Radio Free Current host David Campbell. Up for discussion are a couple of highly anticipated new albums from Dawes & Beastie Boys and a new band from Louisiana called Givers. This week's question: "When you were a teen what rock posters did you have hanging in your room?"

Musicheads for June 07, 2011

This time Bill is joined by The Current's Co-Music Director's Melanie Walker and David Safar. Up for discussion are hot new albums from indie-rock vets My Morning Jacket & Death Cab as well as one of the the buzz band of the moment, Foster the People. This week's question: "what is your summer song?"

Musicheads for May 31, 2011

Bill DeVille is joined by The Current's In the Studio host Jade and Radio Free Current/Local Show host David Campbell. On the table are new albums from Hot Chip off-shoot About Group, as well as the new solo album from Animal Collective's Panda Bear and the new batch from Steve Earle. This week's question: With all the recent rain.. What's your favorite rain song?

Musicheads - May 24, 2011

This time Bill welcomes Mark Wheat and Radio Free Current and Local Show host, David Campbell. The cast discusses the new collaboration of Danger Mouse and Italian composer Danielle Luppi, Rafael Saadiq's new Stone Rollin' album and the new release from local artist Haley Bonar called, Golder. This week's question, "What summer concert are you looking forward too?"

Musicheads - May 3, 2011

This time on Musicheads Bill is joined by The Current's "In The Studio" host Jade and by Radio Free Current and Local Show host, David Campbell. They'll discuss the highly anticipated new album from Seattle's Fleet Foxes, it's called Helplessness Blues. Also up for discussion is new one from Foo Fighters, which debuted at number 1 in several countries, and newcomers, The Weeknd round out the show. This weeks's question: "Who is your favorite singing drummer?"

Musicheads – April 26, 2011

This time, Bill is joined by Radio Free Current and Local Show host, David Campbell and The Current's In The Studio host Jade. On the table are new albums Dinosaur Jr. founder J Mascis, Duluth's Low and TV on the Radio's new Nine Types of Light. This week's question: What's your favorite cover?

Musicheads – April 12, 2011

from MPR: 89.3 The Current: Musicheads Podcast

This time on Musicheads...Bill is joined by Jade and David Campbell to discuss Lucinda Williams 10th album, "Blessed," the first new work from the Strokes in 5 years and the Irish band Elbow's new album. This week's question: "What music related movie biopic, concert film or documentary have you seen lately that you really liked?"

Musicheads – April 5, 2011

This time on Musicheads: Bill is joined by Local Show/Radio Free Current host, Dave Campbell and weekender, Jade. They'll discuss new albums from The Decemberists, and newcomers like James Blake, and a new husband and wife duo known as Tennis. This week's question: "What was the last good "music related" book you read?"

LOCAL MUSIC EXCHANGE

We've partnered with KEXP in Seattle, WA, to swap 5 of each city's favorite bands and play them on the air. Each night at 6:30, Mark Wheat will talk with KEXP's Kevin Cole and play one song from the Twin Cities and one from Seattle, proving that there's more to Minnesota than Prince and the Replacements, and that Seattle's not all about 20-year old grunge records.

Monday, June 20, 2011

Rogue Valley "False Floors" Onward & Over
My Goodness "C'mon Doll" My Goodness

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Roma Di Luna "Then The Morning Came" Before I Die
Seapony "Go With Me" Dreaming

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The Idle Hands "Life Is Beautiful EP" Socialite Death Squad
The Cute Lepers "All This Attention Is Killing Me" All This Attention Is Killing Me

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Haley Bonar "Golder" Candy Machine Gun
Charles Leo Gebhardt IV "Teach My Heart" Teach My Heart

Friday, June 24, 2011

Sims "Bad Time Zoo" Burn It Down
Macklemore "Wings" Wings

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMING REPORT
THE CURRENT
JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 2011

In studio performances on The Current

British Sea Power perform live in The Current Studio

Famed for their live performances- which often include fake foliage, birds, and a 10-foot-tall stuffed bear- British Sea Power started collecting fans with a series of nightly shows called "Club Sea Power" in their hometown of Brighton, UK. March 30, 2011

Hildur Victoria perform in The Current studio

Hildur Victoria's classic-sounding name comes from a band member's great-grandmother. They were originally going to be called Herringbone, but that reminded drummer Jeremy Hanson -- also of Tapes 'n Tapes -- too much of ska band Fishbone. So instead, that's what Hildur Victoria named their 2009 EP. March 27, 2011

James Vincent McMorrow performs live in The Current studio

With an oddly similar story and even voice, the Irish singer-songwriter James Vincent McMorrow has received several comparisons to Wisconsin's Bon Iver. Self-recorded over five months in a small, one room house by sea, James Vincent McMorrow captures the sounds of the waves and the isolated house on his debut album "Early in the Morning" to create a haunting yet beautiful tribute to nature. March 25, 2011

The Rural Alberta Advantage performs live in The Current studio

In a sea of internet sensations, The Rural Alberta Advantage definitely hold their own. With exhilarating guitar lines, intricate percussion, and sincere vocals these indie rockers are a talent to be reckoned with. March 25, 2011

Chapel Club performs in The Current studios

Although their debut album, "Palace," was released less than two months ago, the London quintet Chapel Club have already created quite a stir in the indie-rock world. Their shoegaze-influenced sound has captivated the British music press, and that buzz has started to bleed over into the US scene, aided by high-profile gigs like their performance at this year's South by Southwest festival. March 25, 2011

Ron Sexsmith performs in The Current studios

Canadian singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith has been playing music since 1978 and has been releasing albums for twenty years, so it's no surprise that he's garnered substantial recognition from both critics and audiences. Still, he's reached a point that few musicians get to while still at the height of their powers: becoming the subject of a documentary. March 24, 2011

The Dodos perform live in The Current studio

Multi-instrumentalist Meric Long began as a solo artist steadily gigging around San Francisco in 2005. After meeting Logan Kroeber, it seemed obvious Kroeber's progressive metal/experimental drumming was a perfect fit for Long's love of West African Ewe drumming and bluesy finger picking style. With a reputation for using an alternate instrumental approach, their blend of indie-psych folk is definitely a treat for the ears. March 23, 2011

Rogue Valley perform in The Current studio

Local quartet Rogue Valley is collaboration of Chris Koza and fellow Twin Cities musicals Peter Sieve, Luke Anderson, Joey Kantor, and Linnea Mohn. Named after a rift near Portland, Oregon where Koza grew up, their orchestral-folk sound has made them a favorite throughout the cities music scene. March 20, 2011

4onthefloor perform in The Current studio

4 band members, 4 bass drums, 4/4 time and a recently released album 4x4 all add to 4onthefloor's exponential rock powers. March 20, 2011

Flogging Molly performs in The Current studio

The Los Angeles-based post-grunge Flogging Molly would best be described as a mix of traditional Irish music and spunky punk rock. Dave King formed the band and they got their start playing at the L.A. bar Molly Malones. March 17, 2011

Middle Brother performs in The Current studio

Middle Brother is a trio that features the lead vocalists of Deer Tick, Dawes and Delta Spirit. March 16, 2011

Thomas Kivi performs in The Current studio

Local singer-songwriter Thomas Kivi has been compared to the likes of Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, and Conor Oberst. Honest and unassuming, Kivi's lush harmonies are a largely acoustic blend of folk, bluegrass, and traditional Americana. March 13, 2011

Cold War Kids perform live in The Current studio

Now three albums into their career, the Long Beach, CA foursome Cold War Kids finally have a chance to call music their job. With that, they've been able to write their latest album "Mine Is Yours" over three months in the studio with Jacquire King, who has also worked with musicians like Tom Waits. March 10, 2011

Telekinesis perform in The Current studios

Telekinesis, the one-man-band alterego of Seattle musician and songwriter Michael Benjamin Lerner, makes classic 21st-century Pacific Northwest indie-rock in the tradition of Death Cab for Cutie and others. March 8, 2011

Koo Koo Kanga Roo perform in The Current studio

In a city mostly known for hip-hop duos like Bight Club and the now-defunct MC/VL, Koo Koo Kanga Roo stands out as the only team of family-friendly rappers. With songs like "Rollin' In the Minivan" and "Don't Wanna Do My Chores," Koo Koo manages to make their music and live shows appealing to both kids and adults. March 6, 2011

Nicole Atkins performs in The Current studios

Singer-songwriter Nicole Atkins has gone through a lot of life changes in the last couple of years, and they're all laid bare on her new album, "Mondo Amore." March 2, 2011

Smith Westerns perform live in The Current studio

Formed in high school, The Smith Westerns are a four-some from Chicago that have been touring the country and wowing audiences. Their buzz began in 2009 with their self-titled first record. Inspired by garage rock, their follow up "Dye It Blonde" was released this year. February 28, 2011

BadNRad perform in the Current Studio

"Born into the world wearing neon sunglasses and a pair of hi-tops, Jake Sullivan was raised on casio keyboards and cartoons." So begins an autobiographical segment on electronic, guitar and synth-shredding, face-melting local one-man band BadNRad. BadNRad has been thumping a keytar-sized dent in the Minneapolis music scene over the past year, culminating in a showcase at First Avenue's Best New Bands of 2010. February 27, 2011

Fitz and the Tantrums perform in The Current studio

Emerging from Los Angeles' growing indie-soul scene, Fitz & the Tantrums began as the one-man project of Michael Fitzpatrick, but has now expanded into a seven-piece band. Fitzpatrick--"Fitz" for short--plays the church organ and shares vocal duties with singer Noelle Scaggs. February 24, 2011

Alexi Murdoch performs live in The Current studio

Born in London, growing up in Greece and moving to Scotland at the age of 10 then going to college at Duke University, it wasn't until singer-songwriter Alexi Murdoch moved to L.A. that his career took off when KCRW host Nic Harcourt began playing his music. His first full-length album "Time Without Consequence" was released in 2006, and his song "Orange Sky" found its way all over television and movies playing on shows like The O.C. and movies like The Garden State. February 23, 2011

Wild Nothing performs live in The Current studio

Wild Nothing is the band from Virginia-born Jack Tatum. Produced entirely in his bedroom, Tatum started with the music before writing lyrics to his Smiths-inspired shoe-gaze songs. While on tour, Tatum brings a long band members to recreate the sounds live. February 22, 2011

Nightingales perform in The Current studio

Purposefully misspelled Minneapolis band the Nightingales draw heavily from American-inspired, British blues bands like the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, and the also alternatively-spelled Byrds. February 21, 2011

Sims performs live in The Current studios

Doomtree MC and Minnesota native Sims dropped his second official full-length release, "Bad Time Zoo," earlier this week. February 20, 2011

Justin Townes Earle performs in The Current studios

Singer-songwriter Justin Townes Earle--son of Steve Earle, stepson of Alison Moorer, named after Townes van Zandt--might as well be alt-country royalty. February 18, 2011

Jessica Lea Mayfield performs live in The Current studio

At the age of 21, singer-songwriter Jessica Lea Mayfield has been in the music business nearly her entire life. She began touring with her family at the age of four and then began singing with them when she was eight. Then at only sixteen, she started working with fellow Ohioan Dan Auerbach - one half of The Black Keys - when she was just sixteen. February 14, 2011

A Southern Songbook preview in The Current studio

The Great American Songbook is a compilation of American music, including ethnic American folk music, Ragtime, classical, and American and European musical theater from 1925 to 1960. Some have dismissed it as an older body of work that has no bearing on contemporary rock music; however, Adam Levy of the Honeydogs begs to differ. February 13, 2011

Fauna performs in The Current studio

17 years after the original members started playing together, the founding members of Fauna are back together. After a core lineup change in and a temporary period of extinction in the 1990's Fauna went into hibernation. Zachery Vex and crew are breathing new life into Fauna with a new EP Cellophane which will be released at Cause on Friday, February 11th. February 6, 2011

Housepet performs in The Current Studio

Originally from Detroit, Jack Ventimiglia aka Housepet made the move to Minneapolis to learn more about producing and music. January 30, 2011

The Goondas perform in The Current studios

The Goondas have been compared to everyone from Mick Jagger to the Stooges to Steven Tyler. But these post-punk, gritty, blues-infused local stalwarts have a sound and look all their own. January 23, 2011

Liz Phair performs live in The Current studios

With a long career of ground-breaking music that began in the early '90s, singer-songwriter Liz Phair has moved from indie label goddess with the release of her debut "Exile in Guyville" in 1993 to selling over three million records across the globe including her latest, "Funstyle." January 20, 2011

Lissie performs live in The Current studios

Born Elisabeth Maurus, singer-songwriter Lissie started performing songs as the age of nine, while playing the title part in the musical "Annie." She started opening for touring bands that came through Fort Collins, Colo. when she was in college before producing her debut EP, "Why You Runnin'?", in 2007. Her powerful voice launched her career, and her debut album "Catching a Tiger" came out in the summer of 2010. January 20, 2011

Alpha Consumer performs in The Current Studio

Though members of local band Alpha Consumer play with other artists--locals Dosh, Fat Kid Wednesdays, Happy Apple, and Haley Bonar--they rock the Twin Cities hard first and foremost as Alpha Consumer. January 16, 2011

S. Carey performs live in The Current studios

Most notable for his work as the drummer of Wisconsin-hailed Bon Iver, Sean Carey -- who goes by S. Carey -- unintentionally started a solo side project while on tour. January 14, 2011

Tapes n' Tapes performs in The Current studio

Tapes n' Tapes formed out of Carleton College and quickly found success including positive reviews from Pitchfork and Gorillas vs. Bear as well as signing to a major label within a year of their debut record. January 12, 2011

Hastings 3000 performs in The Current studio

With a gas mask, kick drum, guitar, smoke and lasers, Hastings 3000 is notorious for his extravagant live shows. Hasting is a one-man band. Knowing how to play forty-seven different instruments, Hastings is able to play at least ten at the same time. January 9, 2011

Features on The Current

THE CURRENT AT SXSW 2011

Bright Eyes live from SXSW

Indie rock & folk prodigy and Saddle Creek Records founder Conor Oberst has released over a dozen albums under various monikers and in collaboration with various musicians, but it's his band Bright Eyes that has most consistently been the primary vehicle for his heartfelt, erudite and emotive lyrics. March 24, 2011

Middle Brother live from SXSW

Middle Brother may be a new band, but their members are familiar players on the indie rock scene, including Taylor Goldsmith of Dawes, John J. McCauley III of Deer Tick and Matt Vasquez of Delta Spirit. They first performed together under the name "MG&V" in an impromptu set at 2010's SXSW festival, but a year later they've cohered into a real live indie supergroup, with a self-titled debut album to boot. The band played a set at Auditorium Shores in Austin, Texas on March 19, 2011 as part of the South by Southwest festival. March 23, 2011

Raphael Saadiq live from SXSW

A former member of '90s R&B hitmakers Tony! Toni! Tone!, Raphael Saadiq also has a deeper resume: as a producer and songwriter for many of R&B, soul and hip-hop's biggest names--and now as an established solo artist with an addictive retro-soul sound. His latest album, "Stone Rollin'," is due out in May. He played March 16 at Stubb's in Austin, TX as a part of South by Southwest. March 22, 2011

Smith Westerns live from SXSW

In their second year at SXSW, Smith Westerns return to play a set of jangly pop peppered with new songs from their album "Dye it Blonde." They played March 16 at Stubb's in Austin Texas. March 21, 2011

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

Greatest Love / Greatest Breakup Songs

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. Whichever way you are feeling this year, we want to hear from you. Let us know what song brings the romance out or makes the tears flow. On Saturday, February 12 beginning at 7 p.m., David Campbell will spin the tunes that make breaking up so much easier to do. On Monday February 14, from 6 p.m. until 10 pm, Mark Wheat plays a set for those in love.

POLICY AND A PINT

Policy and A Pint: The Constitution

Tuesday, March 15, 2011; 5:30 p.m.

The Constitution: it's the framework for our government, and it formally established our founding laws and beliefs. But is the constitution "sacred document" or "malleable work-in-progress"? We'll dispel some of the myths, and try to turn down the rhetoric about our much misunderstood document.

Host Steve Seel talks with U of M professor Tim Johnson, Tuesday March 15th at the Varsity Theater in Minneapolis. Host Steve Seel talks with U of M professor Tim Johnson, Tuesday March 15th at the Varsity Theater in Minneapolis.

THE CURRENT PRESENTS

SXSW Wrap-up

March 27, 2011

Melanie Walker and Mary Lucia preview the best new bands from South by Southwest. They'll bring you some of their favorite picks, plus hear live performances recorded in Austin.

"Those Were The Days: The History of Apple Records" with Jim McGuinn

March 20, 2011

Join Jim McGuinn for a special one-hour program on the history of Apple Records.

"Under the Covers" with Barb Abney

March 13, 2011

Join Barb Abney for one hour of cover songs. From the familiar to the obscure, discover new versions of some of your old favorites.

The New Hot with David Safar

March 6, 2011

Join David Safar for one hour of music discovery. Tune in to hear some of the most anticipated releases of 2011, and discover what new music should be on your radar this Spring.

A Celebration of Black History

February 27, 2011

This week, on a very special Current Presents, Radio Production Manager Derrick Stevens welcomes guests Keith Ellison, Robyne Robinson, Brother Ali and Jevetta Steele for a celebration of Black history and Black music spanning five decades and many brilliant musical artists. Check out the links and playlist below, and enjoy!

Oh Yeah: Tunes from '80s Teen Flicks

February 20, 2011

This week, the Current Presents welcomes DJ Jake Rudh as he hosts "Oh Yeah: Tunes from '80s Teen Flicks." Jake brings his love and knowledge of 1980s soundtracks to the Current airwaves and plays some of the best artists spotlighted on those albums. You'll hear the acts who found their fame through these soundtracks like Simple Minds and the Psychedelic Furs, as well as a few that might still be new to you today. He pulls from such classics as Fast Times at Ridgemont High, Pretty In Pink, Sixteen Candles, Valley Girl and many others. So grab yourself some Pop Rocks and a Shasta and enjoy the ride. It's just unfortunate that it's not in a Delorean.

DJ Jake Rudh is host of the weekly Minneapolis-based '80s and new wave dance night Transmission, which takes place at Clubhouse Jager every Wednesday night. The Straight Up Break Up

February 13, 2011

This week, Matt Perkins, Marketing Specialist, and Bethany Barberg, Local Music Assistant, bring you The Straight Up Break Up on the Current Presents. It's an hour of the juiciest details from the most famous band break ups of all time. You'll hear stories and music as we take a look at the recent breakups of The White Stripes and LCD Soundsystem. We will even dig into other bitter break ups including The Pixies, Sex Pistols, the Byrds and more. Tune in Sunday at 9 p.m. to hear how drugs, alcohol, egos and family feuds all lead to The Straight Up Break Up on the Current Presents.

Latino Alternative

February 6, 2011

On the Feb. 6, 2011 edition of The Current Presents, *Latino Alternative*, we will explore how culturally diverse Latin Alternative music can be. Latinos are not just creating Salsa, Ranchera, and Cumbia music anymore. Latinos continue to make all of these but now combined with everything you can imagine, including Hip Hop, Rock, Electronic, and Funk, to name a few... Raul Escobar returns to bring us the modern Latino Alternative Sound!

Grammys 2011

January 30, 2011

Host Mac Wilson runs down the nominees for this year's Grammy™ Awards.

Ladies First

January 23, 2011

Jennifer Larson explores the past three decades of the most influential women of rap—from MC Lyte and Queen Latifah to Lauryn Hill and Nicki Minaj. We'll be taking a look at how both the styles and content have changed throughout the year and where this evolution will take us in the future.

The Shape of Punk to Come

January 16, 2011

This week on The Current Presents, David Safar is joined by David Lewis to explore the roots and history on the D.C. punk scene.

How Did I Get Here? An Intimate One-Hour Conversation with David Byrne

January 9, 2011

This week on The Current Presents, we get a chance to chat with the man many people still only remember from his band Talking Heads. But in the mid '80s, *Time* magazine called him a Renaissance Man, and lately he has been living up to it! He's been making buildings into musical instruments, writing books about riding bikes and collaborating with Fatboy Slim on a modern opera for the stage about Imelda Marcos of the Philippines. Tune in to hear the background details and a bunch of tunes from the Fatboy Slim collaboration, *Here Lies Love*.

The Current Rocks the Remix

January 2, 2011

On this week's Current Presents, we'll learn about the development of remixes and mash-ups. Both forms of music are crucial to bridging divides between cultures and genres of music. We'll talk to John von Seggern, a producer and remix software engineer, about ethnic singing and funk beats; we'll find out why Gregg Gillis, also known as mash-up master Girl Talk, doesn't think Kelly Clarkson is bad; and finally, we'll interview Lewis Pesacov from Afropop band Fool's Gold about turning indie songs into mainstream hip hop. After all, that's what remixes and mashups are all about: making one thing sound like something completely different, and introducing listeners to new music in the process.

THEFT OF THE DIAL

Theft Of The Dial: GIRL TALK

March 12, 2011 by Jade

Gregg Gillis is one of the nicest tissue engineers you could ever meet. He also knows how to make 30 songs blend together in a way that not only takes the originals to a whole new place, but also makes you want to dance all night long. Under the moniker of Girl Talk, Gregg has been touring across the world bringing his mash-ups and party atmosphere with him. He played two nights of sold out shows at First Ave, and took some time to sit down with me. We chatted about what actually is happening on stage during a show, what he thinks makes for a great mash-up and his love for a certain 80's band. Check out Girl Talk's playlist below.

Theft Of The Dial: Gang Of Four

March 9, 2011 by Mark Wheat

When I was a freshman at Leeds University in northern England in 1978 these guys were senior art students preparing to release their first seminal album "Entertainment". Seeing them live changed my life. I'd grown up in a very small rural town and seen only a handful of gigs before then. They were the greatest live band I've ever seen back then. So it was a particular thrill to chat with them about their musical influences. Check out one of their influences, also a fave of mine from Canvey Island in Essex, Dr. Feelgood who they talked about early in the interview. Wilko Johnson is that band's guitarist and he's still playing around the UK. Many people see GOF as a huge influence on Franz Ferdinand and Red Hot Chilli Peppers, but I was also interested to hear the story of Massive Attack admitting to sampling alot of their music too. Enjoy two of my heros doing a great job of replacing me!

Theft Of The Dial: M.A. Rosko

March 9, 2011 by Steve Seel

To kick off Theft of the Dial Day on today's Morning Show, Jill and I welcomed M.A. Rosko, morning feature reporter on KMSP-TV Fox 9 news. M.A. has honored us by doing live remotes on her show from our studios for the past two years on the occasion of The Current's birthday, and her affection for The Current and local music (and just good music in general) has always been in evidence. We've chatted with M.A. for some time about the prospect of her doing a Theft of the Dial with us, and today, we let her take over our airwaves.

Theft Of The Dial: The Decemberists

March 9, 2011 by Jade

Being a host at The Current, we often have to tackle many tasks at once. Listen to all the new music, scope out the local music scene, check out the facebook and twitter world, edit and produce. But the Theft of the Dial with Chris Funk and John Moen of The Decemberists allowed me to add something else to my resume, barista. Arriving a bit groggy from a long night on the road Chris and John stepped into The Current studios with only one request. Coffee, please. Once they were caffeinated we chatted about where they were when they found out The King is Dead hit number one, what it was like working with REM's Peter Buck and how nice it is to wear jeans to play a show. Then I handed over The Current airwaves and let them play dj, bringing in some of their friends and tour mates from Portland and some music that they just think is really great. Listen to their thoughts above and check out the playlist below.

MUSICHEADS

Musicheads for March 29, 2011

This time on Musicheads, Bill is joined by Mark Wheat and by Local Show host David Campbell. They discuss new music from the Besnard Lakes side project The Soft Province, as well as the new work from The Low Anthem and the band with the unfortunate name of Yuck! This week's question: What recent reissue or compilation are you excited about?

Musicheads for March 22, 2011

It's an encore presentation this time on Musicheads, as Bill is joined by Jill Riley and David Campbell to discuss some all new releases for 2011. Up for discussion are the first album of new material from Gang of Four in 16 years, plus locals Tapes 'N' Tapes and the funky soul of Fitz and the Tantrums. The cast also wonders: If you had to pick your all-time favorite musician/recording artist, who would it be?

Musicheads for March 15, 2011

For this episode of Musicheads, Bill welcomes Co-Music Director David Safar and late-night host Lindsay Kimball to the show. They discuss the third album from the Baltimore duo Wye Oak, Philadelphia artist Kurt Vile's *Smoke Ring for My Halo* and Jessica Lea Mayfield's new one, which is produced by Dan Auerbach. This week's question: What to you is an example of a bad band name?

Musicheads for March 8, 2011

This time on Musicheads, Bill is joined by David Campbell and Jade. They discuss new music from Banjo or Freakout, as well as PJ Harvey and the new DeVotchka album. This week's question: Who is your favorite musician who is child of a musical icon?

Musicheads for March 1, 2011

This time on Musicheads Bill is joined by Local Show and Radio Free Current host David Campbell and The Current's In the Studio host Jade. They discuss the new Radiohead album as well as the new supergroup Middle Brother and the interesting new work from Yellowbirds. This week's question: As this long winter continues, what song makes you think of spring?

Musicheads for February 15, 2011

This time on Musicheads, Bill and the Local Show host David Campbell welcome Chris Riemenscheider of the Star Tribune to discuss the highly anticipated new albums from Adele, Texas singer-songwriter Hayes Carll and Australian electro-rockers Cut Copy. This week's question: February is Black History month... who is an artist or band that hasn't received the acclaim they deserve?

Musicheads for February 8, 2011

Bill DeVille welcomes evening host Mark Wheat and weekender Mac Wilson to Musicheads. They discuss new works from the veteran British post-punks Wire as well as Iron and Wine's new fourth album—plus, Dan Bejar's *Destroyer* is back! This week's question: What music or artist have you recently rediscovered?

Musicheads for February 1, 2011

This time on Musicheads: Bill is joined by Local Show/Radio Free Current host Dave Campbell and weekender Jade. They'll discuss new albums from The Decemberists and newcomers like James Blake and a new husband-and-wife duo known as Tennis. This week's question: What was the last good "music related" book you read?

Musicheads for January 25, 2011

This time on Musicheads, Bill is joined by Jill Riley and David Campbell to discuss some all-new releases for 2011. Up for discussion are the first album of new material from Gang of Four in 16 years, plus the latest from locals Tapes n' Tapes and the funky soul of Fitz and the Tantrums. The cast also wonders: If you had to pick your all-time favorite musician/recording artist, who would it be?

Musicheads for January 18, 2011

For this first episode of the new year, Bill is joined by The Current's music department, Melanie Walker and David Safar, to discuss some of the new music they are excited about in 2011! The cast also wants to know: What album do you think was overlooked in 2010?