

Larry Kaplan Biography--2018

Larry Kaplan is a New England based singer and songwriter. Born in Boston and raised in Maine and Massachusetts. He is best known for his songs of New England which have been recorded both by himself and by a number of folk music artists and filmmakers since the 1970s. As a performer, Larry first came to the attention of musicians and audiences in the mid-to-late 1970s after returning to Maine to work in a variety of jobs along the coast. It was during that time that he helped to restore then crew on the historic schooner, *The Bowdoin*, and he worked on other vessels over the summer and fall.

Larry has a clear tenor voice, a unique lyrical guitar style, and an engaging and interactive stage presence, but he is best known for his song writing. His songs are traditionally based and notable for their lyricism and rich melodies. Many would be classified as 'ballads---or stories in song, and in fact, a number of his songs such as '**Old Zeb, The Wreck of The Bayrupert** and **Song for Gale**' in particular are often mistaken for traditional ballads.

He signed with Folk Legacy records in 1993 and his first CD '**Worth All the Telling**' was issued later that year to critical acclaim. A number of songs on this album including '**Old Zeb,**'**Song for Gale**' and '**Song for the Bowdoin**' have not only received significant air play on folk radio stations in the US, Canada, and Europe, but also have been recorded and sung by many other artists, including Cindy Kallett, Bob Zentz, Gordon Bok, Anne Dodson, Tom Lewis, and Cindy Mangsen, Alan Reid, Pete Seeger, and others. In recent years, Larry has been featured in folk clubs and major festivals across the UK, as well as in Europe and Canada.

His second Folk Legacy CD '**Songs for an August Moon**' also on Folk Legacy, was released in April 2014 and like his first recording, has quickly gained considerable attention for its range of themes and its melodic and singable choruses including '**Too Late For The Breaking Yard**', '**Selling The Isabel**', '**Emma's Attic**', '**John**', and '**Get Her Into Shore**'. A third Folk Legacy CD, '**Furthermore**' was released in May, 2016, with wonderful assistance by Cindy Kallett, Grey Larsen, Brian McNeill, Tom Goux, and Abby Newton. In 2018 he produced a fourth CD, "**True Enough**" which many consider his finest effort thusfar with contributions by award-winning fiddler, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, Tom White, Cindy Kallett, Grey Larsen, Sonny Barbato, Eric Kilburn, Valarie Thomson, and Anna Huckabee-Tull.

While his most popular songs involve themes related to the sea and rivers, many address other subjects including topical stories, known and little known historical events, ballads of rural life, and the humor inherent in daily life. He has been referred to by respected reviewers often as a consummate story teller in the truest folk tradition.

He has also been instrumental in helping to secure and promote the work of the late E. Gale Huntington, from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, a leading collector and scholar in maritime and whaling songs that have made their way to America, including The Gam, Gale's seminal posthumous collection of folk songs.

Larry's list of folk venue performances includes among others, The Old Songs Festival, Café Lena, Club Passim, Ramblin' Conrad's, The Me and Thee Coffeehouse, Walkabout Clearwater, The Wee Folk Club at Royal Oak, Edinburgh, Leith Folk Club, Leith, Trinity, Folkway, and U'N'I and Sounding Board coffee houses among others, and a number of leading folk festivals including The Mystic Sea Music, Old Songs Festival, South Florida Folk Festival, Chicago Maritime Festival, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Port Gamble Maritime Festival, Dusty Strings (Seattle), Bound For Glory (Ithaca), Old Dominion, Eisteddfod, the Auckland (NZ) Folk Festival, Working Waterfront Festival in New Bedford folk and the popular northeast regions, Folk Weekend,, and three times at the prestigious Fisher Poets Gathering in Oregon.

His songs have been used as soundtracks for short films, and fundraising efforts, and some have been sung in schools as far away as Labrador and Greenland. Kaplan maintains a steady performance schedule, as long-time fans and folks new to folk music come to hear him perform his own work as well as a generous sampling of traditional songs.

Discography

Captain Hawkins' Choice, Winter Harbor Records, 1977

Further North—HLM-001, Hannah Lane Music, 1992

Worth All the Telling—CD-122, (Folk Legacy Records, Sharon Connecticut, 1993

Songs for an August Moon—CD-143, (Folk Legacy, Sharon Connecticut, 2014

From the Galley's Soft Light—conversations with the captains of Arctic Schooner Bowdoin HLM-003

35th Annual Mystic Sea Music Festival, Mystic Seaport, 2014

36th Annual Mystic Sea Music Festival, Mystic Seaport, 2017

Furthermore—CD 148, (Folk Legacy Records, Sharon Connecticut, 2016

True Enough—HLM 004 (Hannah Lane Music, Essex, CT, 2018)

38th Annual Sea Music Festival, Mystic Seaport, 2018

Special awards and recognition

"Songs for and August Moon" (Folk Legacy Records CD-143) chosen a top album of the year, Hudson River Sampler, WAMC National Public Radio, Albany, New York

"Furthermore" (Folk Legacy Records CD-143) chosen a top album of the year, Hudson River Sampler, WAMC National Public Radio, Albany, New York

"Furthermore" (Folk Legacy Records CD-143) presented as a "top pick" by Rich Warren, "Midnight Special" WFMT-fm, Chicao, Il.

Nominated as Ct. State Troubadour, Hartford, Ct., 2018

Top Folk CD, DJ Folklist, June, 2017

Top Folk CD, DJ Folklist, February, 2018

Sources

Looney, Larry. 'Larry Kaplan's Worth All the Telling 20 Years On.' No Depression: The Roots Music Authority. <http://www.nodepression.com/profiles/blogs/larry-kaplan-s-worth-all-the-telling-20-years-on>

Blackman, Bob, 'Worth all the Telling' by Larry Kaplan (Album Review), Sing Out, vol.39, No.2, Aug/Sept/Oct. 1994

Ide, Stephen, "Larry Kaplan, 'Worth all the Telling,'" Recording Review, New England Folk Almanac 1994

Petric, Faith, 'Larry Kaplan, Worth all the Telling,' Recording Review, Folknik, 1994

De, Nicki, 'Larry Kaplan,' Victory Review, 1994

Ide, Stephen, "Larry Kaplan, Worth all the Telling," Recording Review, Dirty Linen, 1994

Luft, Barry, 'Worth all the Telling' by Larry Kaplan (Album Review), Canadian Folk Music Bulletin, vol.28, No.2, Calgary Alberta, Canada, June, 1994

Looney, Larry. 'Songs for an August Moon,' (Album Review), No Depression, The Journal of Roots Music.. <http://www.nodepression.com/profiles/blogs/larry-kaplan-songs-for-an-august-moon-cd-review>

Paton Sandy. About Larry Kaplan. <http://www.larrykaplanmusic.com/>

Sing Out Magazine, Song Index. Song For The Bowdoin . v.39#3 . p.103

Sing Out Magazine, Song Index. Song For Gale. v.34#1. p.76

No Depression—The Journal of Roots Music, Larry Kaplan: real contemporary folk music—a living tradition. July 4, 2016, <http://nodepression.com/album-review/real-contemporary-folk-music-%E2%80%93-living-tradition>

fRoots magazine (UK) Nov. 2016 No. 401, Review of "Furthermore."

The Living Tradition (UK) Issue 116, December 2016/Jan 2017. Review of "Furthermore"

No Depression, The Journal of Roots Music, Feb 10, 2018: Larry Kaplan: folk music to preserve, protect, and remember. Review of "True Enough," <http://nodepression.com/album-review/folk-music-to-preserve-cd-review>

In Press: fRoots (UK), Review of "True Enough."

External Links

1. <http://www.larrykaplanmusic.com/> (Official Website)
2. http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqVs_ybM8M1aOF8rbL6D_wA (Youtube)

