

# Cuz's Corner

By Dennis Frost

As Darrell Scott sang the other week from the McGlohon Theatre stage, "It's a great day to be alive!" Spring already seems to be in a state of urgency and, thankfully, the rains appear to have returned to the piedmont of the Carolinas. Speaking of Darrell Scott, my high point for the last month would have to be Darrell's second set of his cozily attended show. I'm continually amazed at his ability to reinterpret songs right on the stage, but a number of his standards played on the theatre's beautiful grand piano simply took my breath away.

I must admit the **Belleville Outfit's** CD release party at the Evening Muse was also pretty amazing. It's been a while since I have happened on a band this young with such a grasp of roots music. Not only are they keeping alive the Austin-meets-Spartanburg swing tradition of **Uncle Walt's Band**, but are also taking it in other, eclectic directions. I would recommend not missing them the next time they come through. Many of my Nashville compadres were absolutely blown away by them at the Folk Alliance Conference last week. Have you ever heard a group coming together on stage right in front of your eyes? This describes the **Belleville Outfit** – look out, world!

My final "pinch me" moment since the last time we talked was getting to spend part of an afternoon with **Tift Merritt** as she came by WGWG radio in support of her reigning AMA chart-topping CD, **Another Country**. It's a thrill for me to discover an artist or group in the process of finding their muse –

such as the **Belleville Outfit**. Sometimes, it's equally thrilling when an artist rediscovers her art, as Tift did during her months in France. I stand by my review last month - **Another Country** is about as satisfying a record as you can find these days. Look for her at MerleFest this April and later this summer when she stops off in Charlotte!

There is some bad news for roots music fans, as **No Depression Magazine** will cease publication with its 75<sup>th</sup> issue this May. This decision was made almost entirely because of record companies' slashing their advertising

budgets for CD promotion, reflective of buying habits changing from CD purchases to downloads. I really hate this, as **No Depression** was one magazine for and about roots music that I could literally read from cover to cover. The plan is to continue the tradition online, but it will never replace the look and feel of that gritty recycled paper. My fear is that another casualty of this phenomenon will be the pure art form of making a record album. I'm showing my age, but remember the thrill of sitting down and listening to **Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**? At least we still have live shows!

It's hard to know where to begin in recommending new music this month, but I'll give it a go. Note: **Cuz's Corner** will continue reviewing CDs and not song downloads, so there! After about thirteen years to-

gether, **Blue Highway's Through the Window of a Train** is exceptional work of all original bluegrass tunes. I especially like the fact that the lyrics tackle contemporary topics as well as the usual themes – a keeper! ([www.bluehighwayband.com](http://www.bluehighwayband.com))

I also am thrilled with the new one from Kathy Mattea. **Coal** is a collection of classic mining songs and is beautifully produced by the talented Marty Stuart. This is a

powerful, heartfelt, and traditional-sounding work that I would highly recommend. You know a CD about coal mining that begins with two Jean Ritchie songs and includes tunes by Darrell Scott, Merle Travis, and others is going to be a good one! ([www.mattea.com](http://www.mattea.com))

**The Belleville Outfit's Wanderin'** is as highly recommended as their

live shows. I love records that move from originals to covers and back again and the listener never notices. This one is fun and swings from the rafters! ([www.bellevilleoutfit.com](http://www.bellevilleoutfit.com))

Texas icon Joe Ely and accordion master Joel Guzman's **Cactus** is a retrospective of Joe's legendary career performed live, which, from my experience, is the best way to experience his music. If you love Tex-Mex folk music as I do, you need this one! ([www.joely.com](http://www.joely.com))

Bet you couldn't tell I'm a huge Buddy Miller fan - not only of his songwriting, playing, and performances, but also of his production magic! Allison Moorer's **Mockingbird** is an example of Buddy's mastery and it showcases a wonderful vocalist at her best.



**Cuz and Little Bit**

(www.allisonmoorer.com) Note that Allison will be performing with “hubby” Steve Earle at McGlohon Theatre on April 19<sup>th</sup>. They will perform solo acoustic and together! The new Tim O’Brien, Ricky Skaggs, and **The Waybacks’** CDs will be on the agenda next month – stay tuned.

It’s extremely difficult coming up with a gig of the month for March as there are so many excellent choices. If you’ll check out the Folk Calendar, I bet you’ll find your gig of the month! That’s it for this time and, as usual, try to hit a live show or two and be sure to catch **Wood & Steel** at the Gathering on the 14<sup>th</sup> (see article) for the finest in bluegrass!

Cuz

**To share your favorite music with Cuz, contact him at 704-532-8846 or dcmfrost@mindspring.com.**

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## Welcome, Members!

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### We extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Jeff ,Melissa, Curtis and Ellie Armstrong

Jean and John Calvagno

Jay, Anne, Mary Anne, Jamie and Britt Carter

Eugene Dickinson

Patrick Kirby

Zachary Lemhouse

Elizabeth McKee

Cindy Moore

Nathaniel Poovey Family

Tim Wilhelm

### Thanks to our renewing members for their ongoing support:

Dumont Clarke

Delma Combs

William and Carol Draper

Jim and Sue Greene

Raymond Hedrick  
Robert Johnston  
Terry Lett  
Robert Leugers Family  
Paul and Lorrie Michniak Family  
Ellen Myers  
Carol Raedy  
John Renwick  
Jim and Lorrie Riley Family  
Ted Rosenau  
Roberta Tremain  
Christine Van Arsdale  
Corine Waterman  
June M. White  
Jeannine and Alan Wright  
Isabelle Young

### \$50 Sustaining Members

Susan Roberts

Liz Wahls and David Weinrib

Many thanks to those of you who donate above the basic membership level. You enable us to provide continuing community outreach and help to support our Marilyn Meacham Price Youth Scholarship to the Swannanoa Gathering. The Charlotte Folk Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are deductible as charitable contributions under applicable tax law.

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## Open Invitation To March 14th Slow Jam

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Thanks to Jennifer Stanton and John Goldsbury, the Folk Society has an active Slow Jam going again! They invite you to come out and slow jam after each Gathering concert. Whether you are accomplished or nursing blisters, please join them on any instrument you’d like to play. To make it more comfortable for newcomers and beginners, the aim of the jam is to learn to play these

twenty-one songs together, gradually working their way through the list. They will play them in the order given below during every jam. Bone up on these if you don’t know them and come with ideas for new songs you’d like to jam. Visit [www.folksociety.org](http://www.folksociety.org) to listen to mp3 and midi samples of these tunes and for the music/chords, offered only as examples for those who need them. Just click on the link for “Post-Gathering Slow Jam” If you know a different version of a tune, as long as you’re in the same key, that should be fine. You’ll also find some helpful links on the website to general resources that will help you learn new tunes.

Tunes (Key): **Oh, Susanna** (G), **Camp Town Ladies** (G), **Sourwood Mountain** (G), **Girl I Left Behind Me** (G), **Shortnin’ Bread** (A), **Buffalo Gals** (A), **Old Joe Clark** (A), **Cripple Creek** (A), **June Apple** (A), **Red Haired Boy** (A), **Cluck Old Hen** (A minor), **Shady Grove** (A minor), **Old Molly Hare** (D), **Angeline the Baker** (D), **Arkansas Traveler** (D), **Soldier’s Joy** (D), **Over the Waterfall** (D), **Eighth of January** (D), **Chinese Breakdown** (D), **Midnight on the Water** (D), and **Bonaparte’s Retreat** (D).

Send questions or comments to John Goldsbury at [flatpick\\_guitar@yahoo.com](mailto:flatpick_guitar@yahoo.com).

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## Member Ad

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**For Sale: 12/11 Hammered Dulcimer** w/12 treble courses & 11 bass courses; hammers, tuning wrench, case, stand, book included. Arched design; mahogany, walnut & maple woods. Needs strings; \$605 new; **\$450 or best offer. Contact J. D. Winfrey for details at [jdwinfrey@yahoo.com](mailto:jdwinfrey@yahoo.com) or 704-366-1355.**