

Mountain John, Peter Wilson, Moe Dixon – Three Troubadours

"[Mountain John has] the greatest voice in country music." - Johnny Cash

"Peter writes, plays and sings wonderfully well and his songs are filled with humor, heart and conscience." - Utah Phillips

"[Moe Dixon's] magical performances are highlighted by masterful guitar playing, powerful vocals and ingenious songwriting." - Sisters Folk Festival

Three solo performers first met in the late 1970s in southern Vermont while performing on the New England folk music circuit. Over the years they've performed as duos and trios across the country. In 2008 they spent a week in the mountains of Pennsylvania dusting off their musical partnership and writing songs. That gathering has become an annual event – dubbed "Troubadour Camp" – and has generated a body of work that includes over 30 songs and an undetermined number of stories.

Johnny Cash said Mountain John Hilligoss has the "the greatest voice in country music." He's equal parts cowboy poet, operatic baritone, stand-up comedian and country crooner. His career spans stints in the thick of the LA folk music scene of the 1970s, years working Nashville's music row and literally millions of miles performing original songs and telling stories at festivals, night clubs and concert halls in every state, Canada and Europe. His videos have been featured on the Nashville Network and TNN. His travels have brought him onto stages with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Emmylou Harris and more. His poetry has been given the "Editors Choice Award" by the National Library of Poetry.

www.mountainjohn.com

Moe Dixon is a familiar name on the festival and concert club circuit with inspiring original songs, fiery finger-style and ragtime guitar and inventive ukulele playing. Moe had gained national recognition through his contributions to the children's group Rosen, Shontz, and Dixon. He's written themes to Bob Hope specials and Warren Miller ski movies, and performed with the Wheeling Symphony and the West Suburban Symphony of Chicago. He's shared the stage with such familiar names as Phil Ochs, Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Tom Rush, Nicolette Larson, Doc Watson, Maria Muldaur, Rory Block, Odetta, Jonathon Edwards, John Denver, Bill Danoff, Michael Johnson, Little River Band, The Hellcasters, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Three Dog Night, Eric Johnson, Larry Carlton, Lee Ritenour, Buddy Guy, Sonny Landreth, and Robben Ford.

www.moedixon.com

For the past three decades, folksinger Peter Wilson has been a regular performer at Northern California festivals, concerts and nightclubs. He's also known as an enthusiastic supporter of the arts, promoting concerts, hosting radio shows and open mic nights. He's been a featured performer at the California WorldFest, KVMR Celtic Festival and has opened concerts for headliners including The Band, Etta James, Jessie Winchester, David Lindley and The Smothers Brothers. His January CD release concert at The Center for the Arts drew a capacity crowd and the music has found its way into regular airplay on community radio KVMR.

www.peterwilsonworld.com

Strings Concerts – www.troubadourcamp.com – 530-913-5534 – info@troubadourcamp.com

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Troubadour Camp comes to GV

For the first time since 1981, prolific Grass Valley singer/songwriter Peter Wilson will share the stage with collaborators Moe Dixon and John Hilligoss in a concert debuting 36 songs sprung from an annual retreat in the mountains of Pennsylvania called Troubadour Camp.

Four years in the making, the trio will perform their original Troubadour Camp songs and stories at 8 p.m. Saturday during a concert presented by the Center for the Arts. "I think what's unique about this concert, is these songs have never been put out by the people who wrote them," said Wilson. It's a productive year for Wilson, who performed to a full house in January upon the release of his first CD in three decades, *Shoulder to the Wheel*.

Wilson is known locally by many in the community as a long-time supporter of the arts, as a concert promoter and publicist, radio host and regular fixture in the live restaurant, bar and festival music scene.

His friendship with Dixon and Hilligoss goes back to the late 1970s when the three played folk music together in the ski town of Wilmington, VT. Since then, the musicians have played as duos and trios across the country. For a time during the early 1980s, Hilligoss spent a winter in Nevada City.

Wilson, Dixon and Hilligoss all have uniquely different music styles. Called "the greatest voice in country music," by Johnny Cash, cowboy poet Mountain John Hilligoss has a degree in music and is equally a stand-up comedian and country crooner. "John's a real story teller. He's got a really amazing voice," Wilson said. Moe Dixon is a familiar name on the festival and concert club circuit with his fiery finger-style, ragtime guitar and high energy ukulele playing. "It will be a dynamic show," Wilson said.

In 2007, the old friends spent a week in the mountains of Pennsylvania and began writing songs together. This gathering became an annual event they affectionately dubbed, "Troubadour Camp," generating 36 songs and numerous stories.

After the Saturday concert, the friends plan to spend a week in the studio recording the music. "They write what's in their hearts and that's what makes their magic so powerful," said Hilligoss of his Troubadour Camp friends, Wilson and Dixon.

With time spent in the Los Angeles folk music scene of the 1970s and years working Nashville's music row, Hilligoss has traveled millions of miles performing songs and telling stories at festivals, night clubs and concert halls in every state, Canada and Europe. His videos have appeared on the Nashville Network and TNN and he has shared the stage with Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Emmylou Harris. His poems received the "Editors Choice Award" from The National Library of Poetry.

Dixon divides his time between winter performances based around Copper Mountain, Colo. and the summer season in Hood River, Ore. He's also a professional skier and windsurfer. As a soloist Dixon is esteemed for his masterful guitar and ukulele playing, powerful vocals, and poetic songwriting. Performing more than 150 concerts each year, Dixon has shared the stage with Pete Seeger, John Denver, Little River Band and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band to name a few.

It's hard to put a finger on what makes their music work, except for one key element. "There's something about our friendship. We just all really like each other a lot," Wilson said.

Three Troubadours return for Hidden Valley Concert

Musicians Peter Wilson, Mountain John (Hilligoss) and Moe Dixon - The Three Troubadours - will be performing "Back Home at Hidden Valley" at 8 p.m. Friday in the Ski Lodge Alpine Room at Hidden Valley Resort.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Master of ceremonies and local musician Randy Myers opens the show at 7 p.m. Tickets are at the door.

After playing at Hidden Valley in the late 1970s, the three musicians each pursued their own musical endeavors, traveling across the country and playing at many venues, both large and small, according to Hilligoss.

"The three of us were given a gift at birth," Hilligoss said. "We are singers, songwriters and performers who have entertained people our entire lives. We were lucky enough to never have to do anything else."

Hilligoss said that the men had been professional musicians for about 10 years before playing in the Laurel Highlands. He said he was discovered by then owners of Hidden Valley, George and Helen Parke, when they read about his storytelling and singing in the Appalachian Trail Guide Magazine. Hilligoss had been playing at Cool Font Resort in Berkely Springs, W.Va. and JB's Saloon in Cumberland, Md. They hired him to play at Hidden Valley, and he later brought in Wilson and Dixon.

They went on to perform separately for many years, but reconnected in June 2008, according to Hilligoss. Since then, the three men have been getting together once a year for a weeklong "Troubadour Camp" at "Grandma Saylor's Cabin" in Bakersville.

During the camp, the musicians write music and reconnect with their mountain roots.

The Hidden Valley concert will serve as the release party for the CD, Three Troubadours Direct from Troubadour Camp. They will be performing all original songs written at the Bakersville "camp."

"We are real excited to be playing the music that was created from the magic of the Laurel Highlands," Hilligoss said. "We feel like we have come full circle, after all these years coming back together at Hidden Valley Resort."