



HEART LAND

Introducing the Heartland

Fri/10/10 & Fri/23/10

A road movie in text and music. Two evenings on the musical icons of the Heartland, from Elvis Presley via Robert Johnson to Otis Redding. Music buff Frank de Munnik presents a resounding picture through numerous recordings of the Heartland's musical culture. Besides the iconic Robert Johnson, Elvis Presley, Otis Redding and Martin Luther King, the spotlight will pause on Aaron Copland, Louis Moreau Gottschalk and the oldest surviving jazz recordings.

The Devil's Music: Blues & Elvis

Muziekcentrum Frits Philips

Fri/10/10

The tale of the Blues through the life story and myth of Robert Johnson. Archetypical Blues. Me And The Devil Blues. Or maybe not. Johnson had become a barely remembered footnote, until 1961 when the LP *King Of The Delta Blues* appeared. How did the popular conception of the Blues arise? For example, while most African Americans lived in cities in the 1950s, the romantic Blues image was one of the country, of the unspoiled Delta. The pure music that arose there was labelled Country Blues or Delta Blues – synonymous with authenticity. But what did the people of the Delta themselves listen to?

Back in 1957, the beeps of Sputnik were still as fresh in everyone's ears as the frenzied performances of that kid from Memphis, Elvis Presley. Presley was a passionate music lover, and there are dozens of numbers which he was known to enjoy covering. Somewhere out of that crucible, the Rock 'n Roll sound emerged. But how did that come about? What records did Elvis himself admire, and how did they sound? Exploring the roots and early days of The King.

The Soul's Music: Otis, Stax & Civil Rights Movement

Van Abbemuseum

Thu/23/10

Stax Studio, Memphis. This was the cradle of the very opposite of Motown, of pure Soul, with Otis Redding as its famous begetter. Though Memphis was strongly segregated, the white songwriter Steve Cropper contributed to the hits and the white bass guitarist Donald 'Duck' Dunn was unmatched on his instrument. Add the black musician Booker T. and you get the golden sound of Stax and Otis. Their story is the story of the soul.

His name became known during the months-long bus strike in Montgomery: a young preacher who emerged as a leader, Martin Luther King. And he grew into an icon. People sang at his meetings, and music was at the heart of the civil rights movement. How did it sound? Where did that come from? A story in which music goes hand in hand with a strident history.

Heartland Café

Ad van Meurs, alias The Watchman, is one of Holland's most talented singer-songwriter in the Americana genre. He blends influences from folk, roots-pop, country and rock into an idiosyncratic amalgam, which is highly regarded in the United States. On six Monday evenings, Ad will present outstanding Heartlanders in Grand Café Meneer Frits (the third hall of Muziekcentrum Frits Philips).

Peter Mulvey

Mon/6/10

Peter Mulvey from Milwaukee is a true Heartlander – a songwriter in the spirit of Leo Kottke and Tommy Emmanuel. His gravelly voice is hypnotic. He lards his set with vivid stories. Subtle plucking, funky riffs, virtuoso runs. Mulvey dazzles effortlessly with his superb guitar technique and powerful dynamics.

www.myspace.com/petermulvey

David Olney met Tommy Womack

Mon/20/10

David Olney is a singer-songwriter with a keen literary intelligence and lyrics which cut to the quick. Whether the subject is heartbreak or banditry, Olney's near-filmic style and uncompromising texts confirm his reputation as a musical outlaw. Olney's songs have been recorded by such eminences as Emmylou Harris, Linda Rondstadt and Steve Earle. Cabaret artist Freek de Jonge is an admirer of Olney and has translated several of his songs into Dutch. On Olney's last CD, *One Tough Town*, he takes us on what is practically a ghetto tour of American music. The sight is not a pretty one but it is invariably fascinating. Only someone who been through life can write songs like that.

www.myspace.com/davidolney

www.myspace.com/tommywomack

Boo Boo Davis Mississippi Blues band

Mon/3/11

A son of a Blues musician, Davis came into contact with the Blues at an early age. He began his career as a drummer and changed only later to vocals and harmonica. He travelled the international Blues circuit in the latter role as a soloist. 'Davis is the real deal when it comes to traditional Blues,' Ad van Meurs says. On his European tour, Davis generally opts for the group around Jan Mittendorp as accompanists. The combo consists of Boo Boo Davis (vocals and harmonica), Jan Mittendorp (guitar), Nico Heilijgers (bass guitar) and John Gerritse (drums). Black Mississippi Blues.

www.myspace.com/booboodavis

Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

Mon/10/11

Stacey Earle started young with singing and playing guitar, but it was not until she accompanied her famous brother Steve Earle on his *Hard Way Tour* in 1990 that she found her element. Now she goes her own way within the American Folk idiom. In 2008, Earle and her musical partner Mark Stuart are both putting out new solo CDs as well as a compilation of their musical joys and sorrows. The daily *Het Brabants Dagblad* described one of their performances as follows: 'They slide from Country to Rhythm & Blues, and from Folk to Rock; armed only with two microphones and two guitars. Their repertoire gives you shivers down the spine, but they are unequalled in the way they make light of it.'

www.myspace.com/staceyearleandmarkstuart

Jeffrey Foucault

Mon/17/11

(+ lecture on 16 nov in the Van Abbemuseum)

Wisconsin is one of those American states that rarely gets into the news. But this area is the real America. It is the underbelly of a gigantic nation and a perfect home base for quietly influencing the course of history. Jeffrey Foucault is an intriguing singer/songwriter from Wisconsin. Despite his youth, the oeuvre of this chronicler of small-town America sounds like that of someone chastened by life. He drifts between Blues and Country. Jeffrey made an impression in Meneer Frits last year as an authentic storyteller with natural authority and a voice somewhere between Chris Rea and Chris Whitley. On 17 November, Foucault will be interviewed by Frank de Munnik.

www.myspace.com/jeffreyfoucault

Lecture door Peter Guralnick

Mon/8/12

The American critic, pop journalist, author and screenplay writer Peter Guralnick has been invited to one of the Heartland Cafés in Meneer Frits. On 8 December, he will be interviewed by Frank de Munnik. Guralnick is an authority on Blues, Country, Rock 'n Roll and Soul. He has published more than ten books on popular music including a biography of Elvis Presley. Themes touched on include 'What remains of the twentieth-century musical melting pot?' and 'What is the present or past role and influence of religion in music from the Heartland?'

Searchin' for the heart of Heartland

The premiere of a documentary by Ad van Meurs, Ankie Keultjes and filmer Dré Didderiëns will take place on the evening of 8 January 2009. The film documents their 10 day journey through the Heartland, and includes contributions by the well-known producer Jack Clement, the drummer of J.J. Cale, members of the Osage Tribe and other Native Americans.

This documentary film gives a poetic and musical impression of the culture of the Heartland, ranging from the one-horse towns of the endless prairies to the cities. This is against a backdrop of the world's shifting cultural and social paradigms.

Ad van Meurs has been travelling to the USA as an artist since 1991, has issued five CDs and has built up a network, mainly in the Heartland, which gives him a backdoor entrance to various niches of American society. He asked Dré Didderiëns to make this film after seeing earlier works by this filmmaker including the impressive documentary *Met de trein door de straat* (By Train Through the Streets). Didderiëns' filmic style with its lovely, slow feel is exceptionally well suited to a road movie.

Both artists are real 'Southern boys' with a love for roots music. As children, they saw De Peel, the heathlands near Eindhoven, as their prairie. Besides the musical passages in the film itself, it will be screened to a live soundtrack by The Watchman.

Fotoexpositie Ernest C. Withers

4/10/08 t/m 14/11/08

Beale Street, Memphis. An ordinary store with 'Ernest C. Withers, Photographers' inscribed on the window. The owner is a passionate camera artist who photographed baseball teams and matches, as well as everyday life around him. But that 'everyday life' in Beale Street consisted of musicians like B.B. King and the young Elvis; not to mention segregation. Withers took photos of the notorious trial for the murder of Emmett Till, a grisly racist killing which shocked America.

Some months later, Withers began photographing the young Martin Luther King and other members of the civil rights movement. These were to prove his most renowned photographs, and included his shots of the 1968 strike in Memphis. The assassination of Martin Luther King took place on 4 April that year, during the strike; Withers was present, but took few photos out of consideration.

Ernest C. Withers, who died in 2007, is regarded as one of America's most important photographers. The Muziekcentrum will exhibit 22 photographs of his, concentrating on music and the civil rights movement. The portraits include Martin Luther King, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding and Elvis Presley. This is the first solo exhibition in the Netherlands of the photography of Ernest C. Withers.

Slotconcert in Catharinakerk; Low

thu/22/01

To give a due place to religious-musical America, the splendid Eindhoven church Catharinakerk has been chosen as the final concert venue. The visual presence of the church influences people's thinking and lifestyle and hence also their cultural life in general. Low interprets this line of thought seamlessly in the band's music and outlook. The core of Low consists of the Mormon couple Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker. Faith forms an astonishing ingredient which is central to Low's music and lyrics. For Heartland, Low will join forces with a choir, percussionists, and organist-composer David Dramm.