



Xs & Ys (As in “Generations X & Y”)

Tune Up: The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Folk Song Society
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Michael Braunfeld

Many years ago I entered into a debate with Mike Miller within this newsletter on the definition of folk music. While I have always conceded his authority on the subject, I have also argued for a more inclusive approach to the genre. Many became acquainted with folk music through arrangements of traditional songs by The Kingston Trio and Peter Paul and Mary. My Carter Family comes by way of Uncle Tupelo; my Leadbelly, by way of Cobain.

I was recently asked to contribute a piece for Tune-Up focusing on music that isn't quite folk, but would nevertheless fit in at a folk venue. I'd like to think that our editor is expanding his notions of folk music. I suspect that, in reality, he just wants to start more trouble between Miller and me. In any event, here are a few things that helped me get through 2007....

Two Wolves

John Flynn

A personal hero of mine, John's latest is an important collection. Continuing in the footsteps of Guthrie and Ochs, John has emerged as a powerful voice of dissent. His songs play like poignant snapshots of the world we are living in. John Flynn is saying what many of us are thinking as we watch the evening news. Sadly, few others are these days. Listen.

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