



Peter Ostroushko





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Biography



Peter Ostroushko

Peter Ostroushko has come to be regarded as one of the finest mandolin and fiddle players in acoustic music. His tours have taken him to the stages of clubs, performing arts centers, music festivals and theatres across North America and Europe, and he has earned an international reputation as a versatile and dazzling master of instrumentation and composition. His recording contributions stand favorably alongside great Nashville session men of his generation. He's played with Jethro Burns, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Chet Atkins, Johnny Gimble, but his hometown Minneapolis' music scene has provided a fabulous variety of musical styles in which Peter remains

enequaled: folk (Greg Brown, John Hartford, Taj Mahal, Robin & Linda Williams), bluegrass (Norman and Nancy Blake, Tim O'Brien and Hot Rize), jazz, classical, and even rock: Peter's first recording session was an uncredited mandolin set on Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*, and his work is featured on Robin Holcomb's 1992 release *Rockabye* (Elektra).

Where Peter is at his most passionate is when Peter plays Ostroushko — a rich ethnic mix at the heart of which is his Ukrainian heritage. His term for his gumbo of musical styles is "sluz duz," a phrase borrowed from his mother meaning, roughly "over the edge" or "off his rocker." Indeed, Peter is something of a first-generation hero in the Ukrainian community of North America. To his surprise, one town even held a parade in his honor!

Not surprisingly, Peter's resume is dizzying in size and scope. He's played lead ukulele with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Sir Neville Mariner. He's barked like a dog on *The David Letterman Show*. He's appeared on *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood* (whose other rare musical guests have included Wynton Marsalis and Yo-Yo Ma). He's composed and performed scores for a number of theatrical productions including *The Children's Theater* in Minneapolis (with whom he traveled to Edinburgh's famed Fringe Festival), the ACT Theatre, and the public television special airing in 1993, *The Dakota Conflict*. He's appeared on radio and television music shows including *Mountain Stage*, *Good Evening*, *Prairie Home Companion*, *Nashville Network*, *Lonesome Pine Special* and *Austin City Limits*.

Recordings include his 1992 release *Duo* with Dean Magraw (named one of the Ten Best Albums of the Year 1991 by *TowerPulse!* Magazine), his brilliant 1989 release *Blue Mesa*; *Buddies of Swing* (featuring Jethro Burns, Johnny Gimble, Red Maddock, and Butch Thompson); Peter Ostroushko presents *The Mando Boys* (those four recordings available on Red House Records); *Down the Streets of My Old Neighborhood* and *Sluz Duz* (both available on Rounder Records). He has recorded on over 100 other records. "Go out of your way to see Pete..." advises Jethro Burns. That's advice well taken.



Peter Ostroushko

Programs

PETER OSTROUSHKO and THE HEARTLAND BAND

Given birth in the studio on Peter Ostroushko's year 2000 Red House recording, Sacred Heart, this must-hear band is now on the road. Peter Ostroushko and the Heartland Band features:

Peter Ostroushko, mandolin, fiddle, vocals, compositions
Rich Dworsky, piano, Hammond B3 organ
Ruth MacKenzie, vocals
Joel Sayles, bass, vocals, compositions
Marc Anderson, percussion

A collection of some of the best musicians in the business — many of whom have been featured on Garrison Keillor's public radio program, A Prairie Home Companion, including Peter Ostroushko, former music director and Rich Dworsky, current music director.

An evening's performance includes the playing of compositions by Peter Ostroushko and Joel Sayles as well as the full range of Americana music, plus Finnish, blues and other vocals by Ruth MacKenzie, and vocals by Peter and Joel. Sacred Heart was the last in a trilogy of recordings composed by Peter Ostroushko which began with Heart of the Heartland in 1995 followed by Pilgrims on the Heart Road in 1997.

PETER OSTROUSHKO AND NORMAN BLAKE

Peter is available with longtime friend and multiple Grammy nominee Norman Blake as a duo in special programs.

Peter Ostroushko, mandolin, fiddle, mandola, vocals, compositions
Norman Blake, guitar, mandolin, vocals, compositions

PETER OSTROUSHKO AND GUEST

Peter is available with guest guitarists for most bookings. Recent pairings include Danny Gotham and Sam Miltich.



Peter Ostroushko

Press

"One of the finest musicians on the planet." Rhythm Music Magazine

"Let's start with the word 'brilliant' and move on from there...in addition to flatout mastery of his instruments, Ostroushko dazzles with his command of various musical genres." The Advocate

"Five stars! Jackpot! Ostroushko is one of a group of virtuoso musicians capable of defying boundaries...as both a composer and a player, Peter Ostroushko deserves a prominent place in the front rank of today's acoustic music scene." Sing Out!

"An acoustic music fan's delight." Dirty Linen

"One of the finest and possibly the most versatile of the current crop of multiinstrumentalists." The Boston Globe

"Trying to find a descriptive label for Peter Ostroushko's music is alot like using words to describe Picasso's painting. It can't be done. About the best one can do is to declare that, whatever the style or medium, Ostroushko's music is created with passion and imagination and is performed with breathtaking precision." Tulsa World

"Peter Ostroushko can play anything! And usually does!" Maine Sunday Telegram

"There may be no other living person on this planet who can play faster than Ostroushko...he can add filigrees and detail that is downright ear-boggling." Oakland Tribune

"A player of miraculous adaptability..." Billboard Magazine

"Peter the Great, or 'the O man,' is a long-standing musicians' musician, an acoustic instrumentalist who's traveled in so many circles that you get dizzy reading his resume." Twin Cities Reader

"The tunes on Ostroushko's tour de force are soundscapes in the truest sense...meditative, turbulent, funny, alternately harsh and serene...they unfold like the most leisurely symphony imaginable, indicating Ostroushko has forged a winning synthesis of folk and classical strains. His aim is to paint portraits of a land with a heart at its center, and he is uncannily on mystical target." Boston Globe

"Few can drive a vamp as powerfully as fiddler/mandolinist Ostroushko." Chicago Tribune

"Quietly breathtaking...Ostroushko's gorgeous melodies are sometimes bittersweet and, like Ansel Adams' photographs, capture the essence of a place." Minneapolis Star Tribune



Peter Ostroushko

Awards

Artist of the Month, LoneHand.com

Heart of the Heartland 1995 Indie Award, National Association of Independent Record Distributors

Top Ten Albums of 1995, Billboard Magazine

Top Ten Albums of 1995, Global Gumbo Duo

One of the Top Ten Albums of 1991, TowerPULSE!



Peter Ostroushko

Appearances (1 of 3)

RADIO/TELEVISION

A Prairie Home Companion
Austin City Limits, PBS
E Town
Late Night with David Letterman
Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, PBS
Old-Time Country Music, Iowa Public Television

NORTH AMERICA

A Center for the Arts, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Abbott Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Academy of Music Theater, Easthampton, Massachusetts
Acoustic Brew Coffeehouse, State College, Pennsylvania
Al Ringling Theatre, Baraboo, Wisconsin
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Anchorage, Alaska
Alice's Champagne Palace, Homer, Alaska
Alvord Theatre Ashland, Wisconsin
Amazing Grace Bakery and Cafe, Duluth, Minnesota
American Friends Service Committee, Andover, Connecticut
Amery High School, Amery, Wisconsin
Ann Arbor Summer Festival, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Antique Sandwich, Tacoma, Washington
Augusta Heritage Days, Cincinnati, Ohio
Avery Auditorium, Claremont, California
Babcock Theater, Billings, Montana
Back Alley Music Fest, Rock Island, Illinois
Barron Area Community Center, Barron, Wisconsin,
Bay de Noc Community College, Rapid River, Michigan
Berger Performing Arts Center, Tucson, Arizona
Blue Heron Center for the Arts, Vashon Island, Washington
Boots and Roots Festival, Hubbards, Nova Scotia
Bothy Folk Club, Le Sueur, Minnesota,
Breadline Cafe, Omak, Washington
Brown Grand Theatre, Concordia, Kansas
Butler County Community College, El Dorado, Kansas
Cadillac Country Club, Cadillac, Michigan
CaffŽ Lena, Saratoga Springs, New York
Calumet Theatre, Calumet, Michigan
Calvin Opera House, Washington, Missouri,
Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, Dauphin, Manitoba
Canadian Garlic Festival, Sudbury, Ontario
Carpenter Nature Center St. Paul, Minnesota
Catamount Film and Arts Company, St. Johnsbury, Vermont
Catskill Mountain Foundation, Hunter, New York
Cohoes Music Hall, Cohoes, New York
Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas



Peter Ostroushko

Appearances (2 of 3)

KEMC/Cisel Theatre, Billings, Montana
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
Kennewick Highlands Grange Hall, Kennewick, Washington
Kent State Folk Festival, Kent, Ohio
Kirkland Art Center, Clinton, New York
Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, Michigan
LA Arts, Lewiston, Maine
Lake of the Woods Concert Group, Kenora, Ontario
Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua, Washburn, Wisconsin
Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania
Left Bank, Blue Hill, Maine
Lincoln Association for the Traditional Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, New York
Lloyds Music Series, Farmington, Connecticut
Longmont Center for the Performing Arts, Denver, Colorado
Luna Ensemble, Victoria, British Columbia
Mabel Tainter Memorial, Menomonie, Wisconsin
MacMillan Memorial Library, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
Madison Civic Center, Madison, Wisconsin
Madison Folk Music Society, Madison, Wisconsin
Marshfield High School, Coos Bay, Oregon
Mayfair, Inc., Allentown, Pennsylvania
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota
Mayo Clinic Choral Arts, Rochester, Minnesota
McComb Bruchs Performing Arts Center, Wautoma, Wisconsin
Mesa Arts Council, Grand Junction, Colorado
Mid-Columbia Folklore Society, The Dalles, Oregon
Mielke Theater Park, Shawano, Wisconsin
Mill Road, Galesville, Wisconsin
Minnesota Folk Festival, St. Paul, Minnesota
Minnesota Sinfonia, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minnesota State Fair, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Mississippi River Revival, Dubuque, Iowa
Missoula Folklore Society, Lolo, Montana
Morgan's Coffee & Tea, Monterey, California
Mott Community College, Flint, Michigan
MSU Fine Arts Series, Mayville, North Dakota
Museum of American Folk Art New York, New York
Myrna Loy Center, Helena, Montana
New Folk Collective, Saint Paul, Minnesota
New Mexico Folk Music and Dance Society, Albuquerque, New Mexico
New River Valley Bluegrass Association, Blacksburg, Virginia
New York Mills Arts Retreat, New York Mills, Minnesota
Newport Performing Arts Center, Newport, Oregon



Peter Ostroushko

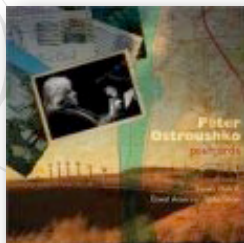
Appearances (3 of 3)

Swallow Hill Music Hall, Denver, Colorado
Tallstacks Festival Cincinnati, Ohio
Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Tampa, Florida
TB Sheldon Theater, Red Wing, Minnesota
Ten Pound Fiddle, Lansing, Michigan
The Ark, Ann Arbor, Michigan,
The Arts Center, Raleigh, North Carolina
The Back Forty Folk Festival, Morden, Manitoba
The Backyard Patio CafŽ, Galesville, Wisconsin
The Barre Opera House, Barre, Vermont
The Blue Heron Rookery, Rolla, Missouri
The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado
The Georgian Bay Folk Society, Owen Sound, Ontario
The Grand Auditorium, Ellsworth, Maine,
The Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota
The Mill, Iowa City, Iowa
The Music Gallery, St Louis, Missouri
The New London Music Festival, New London, Minnesota
The Opera House, Cheboygan, Michigan
The Outing Lodge at Pine Point, Minneapolis, Minnesota
The Palms, Davis, California
The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Saint Paul, Minnesota
The Woman's Club of Owatonna, Owatonna, , Minnesota
Theater at Lime Kiln, Lexington, Virginia
Two Harbors Folk Festival, Two Harbors, Minnesota
UC Programming, Missoula, Montana,
Umpqua Valley Arts Center, Roseburg, Oregon
Unitarian Church of Evanston, Evanston, Illinois
Unitarian Fellowship of Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska
University of Georgia, Athens, GA
University of Minnesota-Coffman, Minneapolis, Minnesota
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Uptown Concerts, Randallstown, Maryland
Valdez Civic Center, Valdez, Alaska
Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society, Vancouver, British Columbia
Vandivort Top Floor Theater, Springfield, Missouri
Virginia McCune Arts Center, Harbor Springs, Michigan
Waterford Cultural Council, Waterford, Michigan
Wayne State University, Rochester, Michigan
Weissman Domestic Concert Hall, Tarzana, California
West End Cultural Center, Winnipeg, Manitoba
West Publishing Corporation, Eagan, Minnesota
Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival, Latrobe, Pennsylvania
...and more!

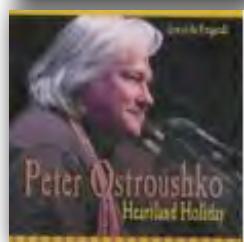


Peter Ostroushko

Discography (1 of 3)



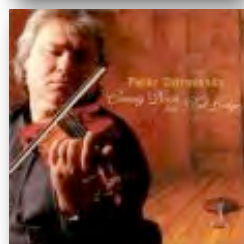
Postcards, 2006



Heartland Holiday: Live at the Fitzgerald, 2005



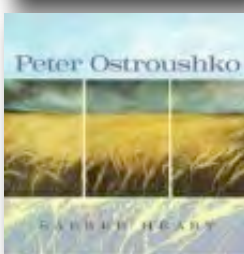
Minnesota: A History of the Land, 2005
by Laura MacKenzie, Joel Sayles, Diane Tremaine, and Peter Ostroushko



Coming Down from Red Lodge, 2003



Meeting on Southern Soil, 2001
Peter Ostroushko, Norman Blake

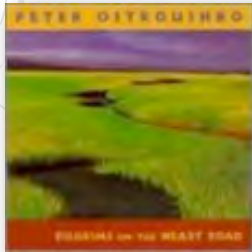


Sacred Heart, Red House, 2000



Peter Ostroushko

Discography (2 of 3)



Pilgrims on the Heart Road, Red House, 1997



Heart of the Heartland, Red House, 1995



Duo, Red House, 1991
Peter Ostroushko and Dean Magraw



Buddies of Swing, Red House, 1987



The Mando Boys, Red House, 1986



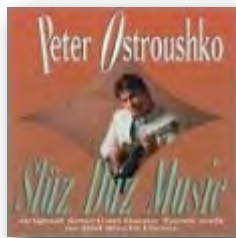
Peter Ostroushko

Discography (3 of 3)



Blue Mesa, Red House, 1989

Down the Streets of My Old Neighborhood, Rounder, 1986



SIŸz DŸz Music, Rounder, 1985

Peter with others

James Galway, *Song of Home: An American Musical*, 2002

John Gorka, *After Yesterday*, 1998

John Gorka, *Between Five and Seven*, 1996

Fiddlin' Johnny, *Aural History*, 1996

Chris Cunningham, *Clearing*, 1995

Greg Brown, *Songs of Innocence & of Experience*, 1992

Norman and Nancy Blake, *Natasha's Waltz*, 1987

Norman Blake, *Slow Train through Georgia*, 1987

Greg Brown, *One More Goodnight Kiss*, 1986

Jane Evershed, *Jagadamba*, 1984



Tommy Sands with Moya and Fionán Sands

Ixtlan Artists

ARTIST REPRESENTATION

Tommy Sands is represented in North America by Ixtlan Artists Group, Inc., an agency representing the very best in traditional, roots, ethnic and world music.

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