



# THE MUSICKER'S GAZETTE



No. 11

WALKING BOXES PRODUCTIONS

## FLYHARD'S THEME

Flyhard Jenkins  
 What you thinkin'  
 Come on and land down here  
 And give us a piece of your mind

Flyhard Jenkins  
 We been thinkin'  
 That we are all  
 Really one of a kind

(Flyhard's Formula:)  
 You jump on in and you put it in low  
 Then you take off cat and you go go go  
 Then you're flyin' high you're flyin' on  
 with Flyhard Jenkins

## VISIT WALKING BOXES ONLINE

To keep up with all the happenings at Walking Boxes Productions, log on to [www.walkingboxes.com](http://www.walkingboxes.com) You can check there for upcoming shows, get on the email list, browse through the show & CD archives, and listen to music samples.

## UPCOMING SHOWS FROM WALKING BOXES

Walking Boxes Productions will be presenting a live radio drama adaptation of Dickens's Christmas Carol on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Historic Fort Snelling. This show will include opportunities for audience members to come up and join in by creating the sound effects for the performance. Then on February 24<sup>th</sup> Walking Boxes will be visiting In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre to present an adaptation of J Roth's original myth-story entitled The Dragonfly Hunter. The show will incorporate shadow puppets & live music. [www.walkingboxes.com/events](http://www.walkingboxes.com/events) has more info about these events.

## THANKS

Walking Boxes wishes to thank Papa Steve, Malia Burkhart, Dave Polanski, Ted Lowell & the Acadia crew, all our fine sponsors (please support them with your business), and all the performers involved with the shows. Thanks also to all of you who have come out to support Walking Boxes and its collaborating artists over the past year.



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## THE CAST OF SORRY, WRONG NUMBER

Christine Nordin.....Mrs. Stevenson  
Elizabeth Karre.....Operator  
Jeffry Nordin.....George  
  Western Union  
Alex West.....Thug  
  Chief Operator  
  Hospital Reception  
J Roth.....Sgt. Martin

### ABOUT THE ERSTWHILISTS

With the radio drama "Sorry, Wrong Number", the theater troupe dubbed "The Erstwhilists" (see the list of cast members above) are presenting their third production. Their premier performance was a recreation of the radio drama "Donovan's Brain". Their second show "Caligari", combined live music and vocal dubbing to the silent film "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari".

Though some of the cast members vary from show-to-show; though the artists come from a number of different backgrounds and pursue different interests and vocations in their daily lives; they all (with but one notable exception) have one thing in common: they all do some work through the Minnesota Historical Society. Beginning its work in 1849, the Minnesota Historical Society is the oldest such society in the country. Though the Minnesota Historical Society has nothing to do with the Erstwhilists' productions, the members of the troupe owe some thanks to the Society which has provided them with the opportunity to find fellow artists who share a keen interest in history.

## PHONE FRUSTRATION

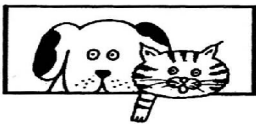
Musings from the Director

Is there some significance in this drama, Sorry Wrong Number, written in the 1940's for us today? It would be stretching it to try and find a deep moral, but perhaps something could be said of Mrs. Stevenson's efforts to weave her way through "the system" as represented by her encounters on the telephone line. Who can't relate to her sense of frustration when trying to get assistance through the various channels of customer service set up to help in navigating the complexity of the behemoth institutions serving modern civilization?

It is interesting to contemplate how differently this story might play out today. In the six decades since this drama was written we've "progressed" now to having automated customer service on the telephone lines. Mrs. Stevenson would likely have to contend with robotic voices on the other line telling her to press "1" for this and "2" for that "3" for another and on and on until she (like so many others) would surely hang up the phone in frustration. She'd likely be trying to get her husband on his work line and his cell phone, both of which would find her leaving desperate voice messages. She'd probably call 9-1-1 instead of the police, but in the end would this or any of our other technological advancements have saved her?

These "tele-mazes" are perhaps the inevitable result of the advancement of our society, and as was the case with Mrs. Stevenson, there can be a horrible sense of powerlessness when negotiating our way through them. Let us hope a better design may be developed some day.

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A bee goes buzz, a snake goes hiss,  
pig oink oink, and cow moo moo  
But when it comes to humans  
what's the tongue supposed to do?  
Is it Aum? Salam aleikum?  
Hare Hare Krishna? Amen?

Maybe, but seems like those words so easily  
make some folks enemies and others friends  
If I knew my own true noise to make  
you can be sure I'd be letting it through  
But for now it's just this rat-a-tat mish-mash  
mumble jumble of words I got coming at you  
I hope it's pure:

Ono Ono Ono Ono Ono Ono Onomatopoeia  
See ya see ya see ya see ya see ya  
I wouldn't wanta be ya

Uh-uh uh-uh uh-uh uh-uh uh-uh  
If you ain't speaking that pure Onomatopoeia

Sometimes the phone's ring-a-ling and bell's  
ding-a-ling, alarm's beep beep, clock's tick  
tock and planes going zoom zoom varoom  
Have me plodding up the stairs, skidding  
'cross the floor, flip-flopping across my bed  
and hiding in the corner of my room  
So I went out to the wilderness to find some  
peace, leaves crunch beneath my feet, wind  
goes whoosh, skipping stones splish-splash  
But always in my head that voice everlasting  
speaking that rat-a-tat mish-mash I hope  
that it's pure: Ono ono ono...

The bomb goes boom, gun bang bang and  
bullets zip zip zip Meanwhile the home  
front crowd roars as the player dribbles the  
ball up court then jump, shoot, swish  
Sometimes no feels like no and yes feels like  
yes but other times what the correct  
answer is I can only guess  
So clang the kettle, pop the corn, slurp the  
noodles, sip the coffee and chuck all the  
waste into great big heaps  
As we sigh and moan and groan and giggle  
and wail and weep and speak that: Ono...



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THEATRON'S MUSICAL TALE:  
WALLACE & THE DRAGON

Alfred Russel Wallace is one of history's intriguing characters. Theatron's presentation "Wallace and the Dragon" just touches the surface of his extraordinary life. Theatron's story is appearing in condensed form in the latest Flyhard Jenkins Show. This shorter version highlights the conspiracy theory that Charles Darwin stole Wallace's idea on Natural Selection (a possibility Wallace himself never publicly considered.) Wallace's encounter with the Komodo dragons as described in Theatron's tale is fictional (he never encountered the dragons, though he was in the general vicinity of Komodo Island when he had his groundbreaking revelation on evolution).

The creation of this musical story began with Theatron member Sir Anthony's song "Belly Dance of the Komodo Dragon". Theatron pianist J Roth next added his song "The Ship" which he had originally composed for a staging of Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are". These two songs mysteriously lead to the discovery of Wallace, and the creation of this tale.

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## MALIA BURKHART

Malia plays a variety of instruments, including piano, drum, accordion, and guitar. In the Twin Cities, Malia is known as a puppeteer, visual artist, and dancer. Only recently has she been "coming out of the closet" as a musician and songwriter. In describing her songwriting process, she compares it to writing in a journal: "When world events or life circumstances weigh down on me, I sing. In our struggles toward justice, peace, and healing of the earth, it's easy to become depressed or overwhelmed. I believe music and art, have potential to transform this energy, and to speak directly to the heart." Malia expects to release her debut CD this year.

Recent projects include the creation of a giant lantern snake and a life-size whale for the Barebones Halloween Show at Hidden Falls Park, "Remembering Rachel Corrie" at the Center for Independent Artists' Adventure Festival, and "Creation Stories from Around the World", a puppet show for kids. Coming up next with In the Heart of the Beast Theater is "Reinvigorating the Common Well" -- sounding the alarm over water privatization and shortages, and calling us to protect our common water sources. Malia will also be part of the 2007 May Day Parade. See [www.hobt.org](http://www.hobt.org) for info. Join Malia's email list for updates about her puppet shows, performances, and CD releases at [puppetmochi@yahoo.com](mailto:puppetmochi@yahoo.com).

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## BRIAN JUST - Review by Rob Van Alstyne

A talented guitarist with a slightly throaty yet tender tenor, Just's gently plucked melodies make for a perfectly warming musical balm. What the five tracks on Just's new album *Every Tree and Every Stone* lack in tempo is more than made up for in melody. Starting things off with a mesmerizing acoustic guitar slide pattern before melting into a flurry of flutes and ambient keyboard squiggles, album opener "The Pieces We Put Together" is arguably one of the finest folk songs I've heard this year.

## PIGS IN A PEN

Pigs In A Pen is a four piece string band hailing from Northfield and Minneapolis. Aaron Cross plays the fiddle, Carl Haskins pounds it out on the bass, Aaron Hagenson strums the guitar and belts out the vocals, and Jake Stroup plays the mandolin and sings. PIAP is starting to play out more in the Twin Cities area and up-to-date gigs can be found at [www.myspace.com/pigsinapen](http://www.myspace.com/pigsinapen).

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