

**Missouri Southern State University
Institute of International Studies**

Presents



GREAT BIG SEA

Monday, Oct. 5

7:00 p.m.

Taylor Performing Arts Center • Admission: free



canada

www.mssu.edu/canada

Story of the *Great Big Sea*

The critically-acclaimed Canadian celtic-rock band Great Big Sea emerged from Newfoundland in 1993 with their self-titled debut. The band fuses Newfoundland traditional music with modern pop in a crowd-pleasing formula both heartfelt and vital. A pure force of nature - much like the ocean surge they take their name from - Great Big Sea's blend of instruments like mandolin, bodhran, fiddle, and concertina, along with their vocal harmonies, revels in the melodies they create and the Newfoundland tunes they love. Their sound bellows joy.

Their fans have been responding since that self-titled debut in 1993. All of their albums have gone gold, and most are multi-platinum. The band dragged themselves out of St. John's, Newfoundland to release their Warner debut *Up* in the spring of 1995. Relentless touring and a raucous live show quickly propelled the record to platinum. Their next effort *Play* enjoyed even bigger success and the band moved its show into hockey stadiums across the nation.

The U.S. labels took notice and GBS was subsequently signed to Sire by Seymour Stein (Madonna/Talking Heads), who unleashed the band on an unsuspecting American public. Accolades and a solid cult following ensued. "We are showmen and we live and die by our trade," offers electrified lead singer Alan Doyle. "I am drawn to the light and I was born to burn."

Born and raised in "the far east of the western world," the lads have traversed the globe, all the while wearing their hometown on their sleeves. "Our music is of Newfoundland," explains multi-instrumentalist Sean McCann. "It would be impossible to do what we do if we were from anywhere else. Our songs come from the sea and the cliffs and the rocks and all the other natural beauties our country provides. Without her we simply couldn't exist."

A remarkable 16 years in, the band should by this time be content to slow down and rest on their laurels. Instead, their ninth studio recording,

Fortune's Favour, sees them boldly embracing new sounds and new ideas, fearlessly pushing the boundaries of their own art and music. In their lifelong quest to marry the traditional music of Newfoundland with their own pop explorations, *Fortune's Favour* is a new benchmark.

"We embraced the law of the road when we started this, and we apply the same rules to our music," explains Doyle. "If you are not going forwards, you are going backwards. And we hate retracing our steps."

"This album is a stew of all our influences," adds founding member Bob Hallett. "Bob Marley, the Clash, Fergus O'Byrne, Ron Hynes, Johnny Cash, Donal Lunny, and who knows what else. So who better to sum it all up than C.S. Lewis: 'Further in and further up.'"

Great Big Sea on tour

Sunday, Oct. 4: The Pageant, St. Louis, MO

Monday, Oct. 5, MSSU Taylor Auditorium, Joplin, MO

Wednesday, Oct. 7: Bomhard Theatre, Louisville, KY

Thursday, Oct. 8: Whitaker Center, Harrisburg, PA

Friday, Oct. 9: The Music Hall, Portsmouth, NH

Saturday, Oct. 10: Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY

Sunday, Oct. 11: Westhampton Beach Performing Arts

Center, Westhampton Beach, NY

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Anthology, San Diego, CA

Thursday, Nov. 12: El Ray Theatre, Los Angeles, CA

Friday, Nov. 13: Galaxy Concert Theatre, Santa Ana, CA

Saturday, Nov. 14: Mystic Theatre, Petaluma, CA

Sunday, Nov. 15: Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz, CA

Tuesday, Nov. 17: Bing Crosby Theatre, Spokane, WA

About the Performers



Alan Doyle

Even as a young child in the small Newfoundland fishing village of Petty Harbour, Alan was holding up a sign that said 'Look At Me'. There was no place for a singer or guitar player in the school band, so he learned drums, all the better to make the maximum impact. An ardent hockey player, only the goalie's gear appealed to him. As hockey fans well know, the goalie's game has only two possible outcomes — hero or goat. Either way, he is always remembered.

Just a teenager when he left home and moved to St. John's, Doyle pursued an English & Religion BA at Memorial University, and honed his musical skills as a solo artist in dozens of pub matinees. There he developed the thick skin and iron larynx needed to go with his natural talent. In 1993 he joined forces with Sean McCann, Darrell Power and Bob Hallett, and together they started Great Big Sea, in hopes of fusing Newfoundland traditional music with their own pop sensibilities.

Despite having grossly exaggerated his ownership of a working van, and his skills as a soundman, Doyle assumed the role of lead singer, and the band mates began to assault the music business from their unlikely Newfoundland home base. Some 15 exceedingly silly years later, the band continues to astonish crowds around the world with their energy, musical skill, and inability to take themselves too seriously.

In his spare time Doyle is much in demand as a producer, arranger

and general musical catalyst, producing albums for actor Russell Crowe and Juno award winners the Irish Descendants, among others, and furnishing soundtracks for the movie *Young Triffie Has Been Made Away With* and the TV series *Hatching, Matching & Dispatching*. In recent months he has been the public face of a major charity campaign for Daffodil Place, a new hospice for Newfoundland cancer patients and their families, and he is also busy creating a soundtrack for a new Atlantic Canadian video game. He still lives in downtown St. John's.



Bob Hallett

Bob Hallett is Great Big Sea's only bonafide St. John's-man, having been born at St. Clare's Hospital on LeMarchant Road in the city. His family name is a rare Devonshire one, dating back almost 350 years in Northwest Newfoundland. Like Alan and Sean, Hallett is a first generation Canadian, both of his parents having been born when Newfoundland was an independent country.

Hallett considers the old provincial district of Kilbride his home, having grown up just outside Bowring Park in the extreme West End of St. John's. It is an area with its own unique accent, responsible for Bob's unusually strong brogue.

Both of Hallett's parents were very musical, and he was constantly encouraged to learn and practice whatever instrument he wanted. An enthusiastic member of the school band (where he played the baritone sax-

ophone, of all things), he taught himself to play the guitar and tin-whistle while he was still an adolescent. He was inspired on the hopelessly button accordion by his grandmother, and persuaded his mother to buy him a cheap Galotta 'F' model at O'Brien's music. It wasn't until the relatively advanced age of 20 that he picked up the fiddle, learning on an old violin which had been a legacy from his great-grandfather. After playing in numerous quickly forgotten punk bands, Hallett met Sean McCann at Memorial University.

Together they formed the Newfoundland Republican Army, a traditional music-cum-activist group which contained eight members, and collapsed after their second gig. Undaunted, they formed Rankin St. — a pub act which was later joined by Darrell Power. Rankin Street's open-ended approach to performance also led to a revolving door membership, a reputation for over-the-top showmanship, and some seriously out-of-hand shows. In 1993 the band finally split up, evolving into Great Big Sea in an effort to bring a more original, Newfoundland-based sound to life.

Hallett is also an accomplished writer and editor, having been managing editor of publications like the *Muse* and the *Newfoundland Herald*. He designed and wrote all of GBS' early publicity material, as well as the liner notes on several albums. Over the years, he has written several text books for adolescents under a pseudonym, two of which have sold over 50,000 copies each. He has also written several music business instructional pieces for the Canadian government. As a producer, Bob has helped acts like Shanneyganock, Vince Collins and Danielle Dupuis achieve their own vision of traditional music.



Sean McCann

In the early morning hours of the 22nd day of May in the year 1967 a baby boy was brought into this world in the frigid coastal town of Carbonear, Newfoundland. Except for an abundance of fine long black hair, the child appeared to be completely normal at first and his parents named him Sean. Like all proud parents, they were thrilled with their new progeny and all the great potential that lay before him. They believed he was special and it wasn't long before the young lad would prove them right.

Within a fortnight, the baby was bellowing sea shanties from his little wooden crib. Lusty songs of loose women and pirates and barrels of Jamaican black rum. The first time parents were alarmed. It was not that the boy sang badly. It was just that he had the salty mouth of a sailor. So offensive were his utterances they had to glue his pacifier to his gums during his christening for fear of what he might say to the priest.

His first steps came in the form of a jig as he tapped and twirled his way across the kitchen floor towards his father's liquor cabinet where he proceeded to neck a flask of whiskey before anyone could stop him. It was his first good night's sleep.

Shaken by the experience, the now very concerned parents sought the counsel of their elders who advised finding the child a hobby before he did any real harm to himself. Music perhaps?

Being of limited means, the only instrument they could afford was the lowly bodhran; an ancient Irish drum fashioned from the hide of a goat and beaten with a stick. Sean loved it. He spent his days singing and dancing and battering away until he passed out in his bed at night exhausted. He was a very happy child.

And he still is.



Murray Foster

A native of Thornhill, in the suburban ring north of Toronto, Murray Foster was thought a surprise choice to replace Darrell Power, who left GBS in 2002. Unlike his new bandmates, Foster did not grow up surrounded by the ancient songs and traditional music. On the other hand, his strong bass skills and powerful baritone voice made him one of a handful of players who could anchor the fourth part of GBS's equation. A good ear for vocal harmonies, a dry sense of humor, and a steady back-beat have made him invaluable.

For almost 10 years Foster toured with the band Moxy Fruvous, which he helped found when he was still in college. The band enjoyed great success in both Canada and the U.S., and made several best-selling albums. A serious student of jazz, Foster is adept at the stand-up bass. When GBS is not touring, he is a member of several alt-country and jazz combos, and he is much in demand as a bass player and arranger. Foster's favorite side project is his beloved jazz trio, the testers, which he has helped nurture for several years. During his spare time Foster works on various writing and producing projects for radio and television.

Like many a boy who grew up in the Toronto region. Foster is an avid follower of the Maple Leafs. These days he is also card-carrying supporter of the Toronto FC soccer club, as well as being a member of Liverpool FC's army of fans. And Murray does share one other important GBS qualification with Sean, Alan and Bob - a Bachelor of Arts in English.



Kris MacFarlane

Growing up in Westville, a coal town on the northern shore of Nova Scotia's mainland, Kris MacFarlane knew from an early age that music would either drag him kicking and screaming to glory or leave him in ruins.

In addition to his love of pop and rock music and the influence of his musical home (his father and two brothers are musicians while his sister is a dance teacher and his mother is very patient), MacFarlane spent his boyhood summers dragging around a 40-pound snare drum for some of the many Scottish pipe bands that litter his part of the world and the rest of the year studying jazz, big-band and classical music, although that inconveniently required him to attend classes at three separate high schools, all at the same time. He has since built a reputation as a sought-after freelance drummer, multi-instrumentalist, singer and producer.

Besides his work with Great Big Sea, MacFarlane has had the opportunity to record and perform live with many other artists including Denny Doherty of The Mamas and the Papas, Dave Gunning, The Paperboys, Nathan Wiley, Lennie Gallant, Kilt, Barry Canning, George Canyon, Patricia Conroy, Crush, Janelle Dupuis, Slainte Mhath and Sons of Maxwell.

He has most recently appeared on Dave Gunning's "House For Sale," played drums and accordion on Dave Carroll's "Perfect Blue" and produced the self-titled third album from Nova Scotia hard rock band Beyond Ash.

Kris is a lifelong Montreal Canadiens fan, a goalkeeper for the PC United Dock Rovers Soccer Club, and he has a crippling addiction to sugar.

www.greatbigsea.com

Please turn off all beepers/cell phones. In case of emergency, please walk to the nearest exit.

Emergency lights will activate to assist you.

Themed semesters: Bringing the world to the campus

By **Dr. Chad Stebbins**

Director, Institute of International Studies

Students at Missouri Southern State University experience the world in a unique way. The university designates every fall semester to the study of one country or region of the world. This way, students experience four or five different cultures by the time they graduate, even if they are unable to participate in one of MSSU's numerous study abroad programs.

Fall 2009 is the Canada Semester. Previous themed semesters have focused on Germany (2008), China (2007), France (2006), Mexico (2005), Russia (2004), Cuba (2003), India (2002), and Japan (2001). During each

of these semesters, some 40 to 60 events give MSSU students a flavor of the country's art, music, literature, theater, history, government, geography, business, educational system, and technology.

The countries selected must be vital to the United States and important players on the world stage. For example, you are not likely to see a Malta Semester, a Liechtenstein Semester, or even an Australia Semester. But you will have a Brazil Semester in Fall 2010.

Back to Canada, which is our focus this year. Despite Americans' jokes and stereotypes about (a-BOOT) our neighbor to the north, Canada

boasts the 10th largest economy in the world. The two countries do a staggering amount of bilateral trade, with more than \$1.6 billion in goods and services crossing the border every single day. About 300,000 people cross the shared border every day as well.

The United States imports more barrels of crude oil from Canada than any other country, including Saudi Arabia. Canada is the world's seventh-largest producer of oil and the second-largest holder of proven oil reserves (after Saudi Arabia). Canadian oil sands, primarily in Alberta, contain 1.7 to 2.5 trillion barrels of oil — significantly more than Saudi Arabia's reserves, if Canada's non-conventional oil sands were measured on the same scale as Saudi Arabia's conventional oil.

We can even see the direct impact of Canada here in Missouri. In 2007, Canada was the Show-Me State's most important trading partner, purchasing more goods than the state's next five foreign markets combined. Missouri exported nearly \$5 billion in goods to its neighbor to the north in 2007 and imported \$3.1 billion from its NAFTA partner. Nearly 145,000 jobs in the state are supported by Canada-U.S. trade.

For more specific examples, consider that the Woodbridge Corporation of Mississauga, Ontario, employs 150 workers at its plastic foam products plant in Kansas City. Xentel Inc., a subsidiary of Xentel DM Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, operates customer contact centers in St. Joseph and St. Louis, employing about 115 workers.

In Joplin, Canadian-based entities include Vitran Express, a general freight trucking company; Sterling Centrecorp, which does business as Best Value Hallmark Inn; and PotashCorp, the world's largest fertilizer enterprise. Headquartered in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the PotashCorp. facility in Joplin, PCS Phosphate, is an animal feed ingredients plant employing 25 workers. In 2008, it made local purchases of goods, materials, and services totaling \$2.6 million. PCS Phosphate operates in the old Farmers Chemical plant in Joplin.

Tourism is another connection Missouri has with our neighbor to the north. Canadians made more than 118,600 visits to Missouri, spending \$49 million, while Missouri residents made 107,000 visits to Canada, spending \$68 million. Canadians appear to be particularly interested in the Gateway Arch and the Ozark Trail, the 350-mile-long hiking, backpacking, and equestrian trail in southern Missouri.

At MSSU, we even receive the occasional student from Canada, including a softball player this year and a baseball player who graduated in May. A biology major from Neosho interned this past summer with an oral surgeon and a dental clinic at the University of Manitoba School of Dentistry. Discussions are also under way between MSSU and the University of Prince Edward Island to establish a partnership to exchange students between the two institutions.

In summary, there are many reasons to keep Canada as one of our focal points. For a complete listing of Canada Semester events, please visit www.mssu.edu/canada.



Dr. Chad Stebbins

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Harry and Berniece
Gockel**
International
SYMPOSIUM

***Enduring Boundary, Lasting Friendship,
Evolving Futures: Canada - U.S. Relations***

**Canada and the U.S.: Partners in
Security and Prosperity**
Georges Rioux
Consul General, Chicago, Illinois

**O Canada-Au Canada: Understanding
and Appreciating Our Northern Neighbor**
Dr. Mark Kasoff
Bowling Green State University • Bowling Green, Ohio
9:30 a.m. • October 27, 2009
Taylor Performing Arts Center • Admission: free

**Like a Mouse Sleeping with an Elephant:
Canada-U.S. Relations**
Dr. Mark Kasoff
and

The Obama Effect: Canada-U.S. Relations
Georges Rioux
7:00 p.m. • October 27, 2009
Corley Auditorium in Webster Hall • Admission: free

3950 East Newman Road • Joplin, Missouri 64801-1595