

# Canadian Folk Music

Musique folklorique canadienne



*Magnolia Buckskin*

The Steel Guitar in Early Country Music

Music Fieldwork in an Office

Folk Alliance and SEM Reports

**Fall/Winter 2014-15**

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## From the Editor

The fall is always a busy time, whether you're simply preparing for one of many holiday celebrations, or you're dashing off to conferences, classes, and concerts. In this issue, we visit some of the varied activities of our members that take place every fall and winter. CSTM president, Judith Klassen, went to Pennsylvania for the annual Society for Ethnomusicology conference, where she took in conference papers and performances for the better part of a week. She tells us about her adventures on page 9.

I managed to escape down to a snowy Kansas City for the annual Folk Alliance, a conference and performance week where old friends reunite and new friends are made. Between two hotels full of tiny room concerts, industry showcases, and panels led by preeminent music writers, I barely had time to sleep! I document some of the new musicians I discovered on my trip in this issue.

I'm proud to feature Daniel Neill, whose article on the early development of the pedal steel guitar opens the issue. Daniel has spent the last several years learning to play the instrument, and is taking his research from York to Memorial University this year, where he'll be completing a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology. If you're interested in country music or the steel guitar, you'll want to put this piece on your must-read list!

Finally, this issue includes an article on conducting music fieldwork in unconventional settings. As academic work faces increasing casualization, many of our members are finding work in other fields, but that hasn't stopped them from being ethnographers wherever they go!

John Leeder brings us several reviews of recent albums, including an independent release from Magnolia Buckskin and Old Man Luedecke's *My Hands Are on Fire and Other Love Songs*. He also goes back thirty years in this issue's Treasures from our Archives.

Please enjoy the Fall/Winter issue of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne*, and continue to send ideas, articles, and letters to us.

*Gillian Turnbull, Editor*

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