

THE WILDS (Vancouver, BC) – Brief Bio

Sept. 2017

The Wilds is led by singer/songwriters **Holly Arntzen**—vocals, dulcimer, piano, and **Kevin Wright**—vocals, percussion, sax. When Holly and Kevin sing and write songs together, think Joni Mitchell meets Bon Scott (of ACDC.) An unlikely combination, but one that bears rich sounds, energy and a unique musical perspective. The Wilds perform mainly as a 4-piece but Holly and Kevin perform quite often as a duet, trio and even up to an 8-piece band... and everything in between.

The sound of the Wilds is “**Folk Pop to Rock Your World**”—the folk/blues of Holly’s slide dulcimer, mixed with Kevin’s hard-hitting cajon and congas, and lit up by rich vocal harmonies, solid backbone bass and virtuoso guitar playing.

Arntzen and Wright are the core members of the Artist Response Team (ART), which produces a steady stream of *Voices Of Nature* School Music Programs and Community Concerts throughout western Canada and beyond. They are joined by throngs of young people singing out for issues that we all face regarding our home planet. Learn more here: <http://www.ArtistResponseTeam.com>

The Wilds (6-piece version) is featured in the 1-hour TV special about water conservation, called *Water for Life*, filmed at the fabulous Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton and appeared on CTV-TWO in Alberta, and PBS out of Spokane.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMMJWh0kWk4>

Each year the Wilds can be found tromping up and down one watershed or another, singing their songs of salmon, rivers, oceans and social justice. In spring 2015 it was the *Up Your Watershed!* tour in the Fraser Basin, from Prince George on down to the coast. In 2016 and 2017 they completed the *Rock the Salish Sea* Tours to seven coastal BC communities, working with local schools and producing major concerts, singing out for the inland ocean between Vancouver Island and the mainland.

David Sinclair has been performing with Holly for the past 30 years. From 1992 to 1995, David toured with k.d. lang, and joined Sarah McLachlan's band from 1993 to 2003, touring extensively in North America, Europe, and Japan and appearing (with both artists) on shows including Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, Arsenio Hall, Saturday Night Live, Larry Sanders, Good Morning America, Rosie O'Donnell, MTV Unplugged, VH1 Storytellers, The Grammy Awards Show, and the Juno Awards.

As a studio guitarist, he has worked with many Canadian artists including Sarah McLachlan, Michael Buble, Daniel Powter, Bachman Turner Overdrive, Bryan Adams, Amy Sky, Rita MacNeil, Paul Janz, Valdy, Susan Jacks, Terry Jacks, Barry Greenfield, Prism, Irish Rovers, Matthew Lien, Gary Fjellgaard and many more. He has played on and composed music for many TV series and films, appeared on numerous occasions with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and a variety of musical theatre productions.

owen Owen OWEN is a multi-instrumentalist with a decades-long love affair with the bass. He was nominated for a 2015 Maple Blues Award as "Bassist of the Year, received global critical acclaim for the CD - "Been Around A While" with his former duo partner, Dalannah Gail Bowen. They are the only act from BC to ever reach the finals at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis (2015).

No stranger to the stage he's been blessed to share the stage with variety of some of Vancouver's and Canada's best musicians over the years. Owen currently plays with David Gogo (BC/AB), Art Bergman (West Coast), Jack De Keyzer (West Coast), The Wilds, TNT - Bon Scott Tribute, and many others.

Quotes & Reviews

"...It was intimate, rich and absolutely appreciated by those who lucked out and fell into this special evening of very fine music. It was one of those nights where it just fell together, was special, and everybody knew it"

Richard Hughes
Music Critic, Blogger

Review by Alexis Ioannidis

THANK YOU to all my friends that came out tonight... yes, on a Thursday... Oh, how we enjoyed "The Wilds" the Holly Arntzen & Kevin Wright band with the very talented Dave Sinclair also tonight @ the Cottage Bistro. I've always loved and respected Holly as an incredible person and a very talented singer, dulcimer player, pianist etc. for as far back as I can remember. I can never get enough of her shows. I go around adding another instrument that she plays every time I talk about her - at this rate she is going to be playing two dozen instruments herself. She is from Vancouver, BC. and totally loves life. Holly is the real thing. So beautiful inside and out. She has been an active participant on the Salish Sea eco-music scene, with so many very important messages by taking us through a cultural, ecological journey, from the soaring mountain tops, to rain, to the spawning rivers, fun songs like Up Your Watershed! and one of my favourite, Mr. Douglas, which is about the the old-growth forests.

Kevin Wright also is a wonderful vocalist, percussion, (so many different drums), sax etc. When Holly and Kevin sing together it's incredible, it really is. I cannot really explain it. You have to experience it. They have been written up as "Joni Mitchell meets Bon Scott". They are so rich sounding, tight and raw all at the same time. They complement each other and their energy is massive. I really really enjoyed myself tonight. Music at its best.... We were dancing in our seats, clapping screaming with joy and laughing at their humour. My heart and soul was very happy! They played all types of music and play it well they did. There was some folk and some rock and some blues, some sing-a-longs but what I enjoyed the best, like a 26 out of 10 was the few romantic and mixed harmonies the band played. The lyrics were beautiful also. They can play and sing almost anything. If you have never seen them before, please join me next time. One needs to experience, "the WILDS".....