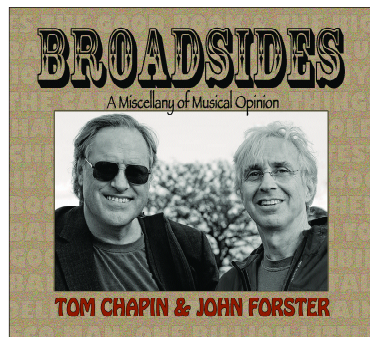


TOM CHAPIN & JOHN FORSTER



BROADSIDES

A Miscellany of Musical Opinion

September 23, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tom Chapin and **John Forster** are pleased to announce the release of their duet album entitled "**Broadsides: A Miscellany Of Musical Opinion**" on October 26, 2010. The CD's 14 songs are topical, witty and pointed, in the tradition of the "broadside ballads" of the past century, whose masters were Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger.

Many of the songs on "BroadSides" were written by Chapin and Forster for **NPR's Morning Edition**, and cover such newsworthy topics as zombie banks, No Child Left Behind, the outsourcing of war to contractors, and genetically enhanced mice. "Think of these songs as op-ed pieces with key signatures," says Forster.

Tom Chapin, a renowned singer/songwriter for both family and adult audiences, and **John Forster**, an acclaimed satirist who also writes for the theater, have been collaborating since the late 80's, when they teamed up to reinvent "Family Music." Their body of work, now comprised of hundreds of songs, includes "**Family Tree**," "**This Pretty Planet**" and scores of other smart, funny tunes that have earned them **five Grammy nominations**, many highly acclaimed industry awards, and a devoted following.

For over thirty years, 3 time Grammy winner **Tom Chapin** has entertained, amused and enlightened audiences of all ages with life-affirming original songs told in a sophisticated array of musical styles. The New York Times says he is, "**One of the great personalities in contemporary folk music**" and Billboard Magazine calls Chapin "**The best family artist around.**" His career spans Broadway, TV, documentary and feature films, the concert stage, 21 CD's and counting.

Forster, too, cuts a wide swath through the entertainment world, having written half a dozen musicals (including one on Broadway), as well as the recent humor book "The BSAT Official Study Guide." The Boston Globe wrote recently, "**If Joni Mitchell and Daffy Duck had a love child, he'd probably write songs just like John Forster. His sharply observed satires range from sheer slapstick to Jon Stewart acute.**"

Chapin and **Forster**, who will both tour in support of "**Broadsides**," will be appearing together for the first time on October 29th at the Center for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts. Complete lyrics and album credits, as well as touring schedules, can be found at their respective websites: www.tomchapin.com and www.johnforster.com. "**Broadsides**" is available at those websites as well as iTunes and CD Baby.

For interviews and bookings, please contact Claudia Libowitz at Sundance Music by phone at (914) 674-0247 or email info@tomchapin.com. For high resolution downloads and cover art, please visit the "Press" section of Tom's website, www.tomchapin.com.

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Track-by-Track Notes

The 14 songs on *Broadsides* are topical. They are reactions to the news of the day. Many were written for NPR's Morning Edition. Think of them as op-ed pieces with key signatures. Music and lyrics are by John Forster and Tom Chapin (except Tracks #2 and 8, which are by John Forster). Unless otherwise noted, vocals are by both Tom and John.

Track #1. *Broadside* 2:50 Township guitar figures drive this tribute to the old masters of the Broadside Ballad-Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Phil Ochs, etc. In the lyric Tom and John explore what happens when "everybody sings along." ~ mid-tempo, guitars, mbira, hand percussion, live crowd singing along.

Track #2. *Total Security Solutions, Inc.* 2:51 A hard-edged critique of the current practice of out-sourcing wars to private corporations, couched as an advertisement for the fictitious security contractor of the title. "Just tell us who to kill / and where to send the bill / from Total Security Solutions, Inc." ~ up-tempo celtic-military hybrid, acoustic & electric guitars, field drums, brass, piano, a rowdy chorus of mercenaries.

Track #3. *Econo-me-oh-my* 2:46 A guitar rag in the style of Reverend Gary Davis, this populist recap of the "business cycle" was introduced on NPR's Morning Edition at the start of the last recession-and updated for the one we're in now. ~ up-tempo guitar rag with harmonica, sung by Tom.

Track #4. *When Bad Things Happen To Good Mice* 2:24 A musical response to a news report about the genetics lab at Princeton that created Doogie, the mouse five times smarter than his peers. This song also premiered on NPR. ~ piano-and-bass driven cool jazz feel, sung by John.

Track #5. *Zombie Bank* 1:21 The fall of 2008 was scaaarrrry! Rumors were everywhere about huge banks without any actual assets. While awaiting the results of the government's "stress tests," John and Tom wrote this ditty, which also became a viral youtube video. ~ mid-tempo novelty song, short and spooky, with 1960's-type production.

Track #6. *The Cars* 3:03 A guitar and organ reggae that builds to a climax as it imagines our car-based culture from the point of view of the vehicles themselves. ~ mid-tempo reggae, acoustic and electric guitars, organ, background vocals, with automotive guest vocals.

Track #7. *Not On The Test* 2:05 A comforting lullaby for a traumatized third grader on the eve of a Big Standardized Test. In another NPR original, Tom and John explore the unintended consequences of No Child Left Behind. Also a viral video. ~ mid-tempo easy swing, with acoustic guitar, Hammond organ and twangy guitar, sung by Tom.

Track #8. *One Billion Little Emperors* 2:20 John probes for the roots of China's present day assertiveness and finds them in Mao's One-Child-One-Family policy of the 1970's. Broad high-energy satire. ~ up-tempo, piano, shamisen, opera gongs, shakuhachi and bamboo marimba, sung by John.

Track #9. *The Chief Executive Chain Gang* 2:30 A prison work song that could be right out of "Oh Brother Where Art Thou" (except for the Enron/Martha Stewart references). In a delta blues style, played by slide guitar ace Scott Ainslie. ~ mid-tempo, slide guitar with sledge hammers, sung by Tom and a chorus of well-heeled malefactors.

Track #10. *Digital Delinquents* 2:16 A fast punk rock complaint that considers how adolescence has changed in the Information Age. Instead of stealing stop signs, juvenile delinquents now blow off steam by crashing websites. ~ up-tempo rock, with multiple shredders, sung by John.

Track #11. *Calling All Dummies* 3:15 With the feel of an outlaw ballad, Tom and John tell one man's story by simply listing the titles of "For Dummies" books he has bought. ~ up-tempo country, with an Everly Brothers vocal feel.

Track #12. *Cold Christmas* 2:20 A Sinatra-type ballad, full of nostalgia for the recent Xmas Past, when "the rhododendrons pointed down" and "the old snow blower / still had some snow to blow." ~ arranged for big band plus strings, a la Nelson Riddle, sung by John.

Track #13. *Eco Man* 2:47 In the age of Michael Pollan and Al Gore, we all strive to do the right thing by our planet but the reality is..."it's not easy being green." Tom and John take turns detailing their misadventures in carbon neutrality. ~ mid-tempo, guitar, banjo, with bluegrass vocals.

Track #14. *The Good Book And The Big Bang* 3:30 A reggae essay on science and religion, the song considers the possibility that, instead of deadly enemies, they might actually function as yin and yang. ~ mid-tempo reggae, with guitars, organ, horns and a Clapton-esque electric solo.