

Tom Brosseau Bio

Tom Brosseau was raised in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He comes from a family of storytellers and musicians. Instruments lined the walls of the house, and his grandfather's record collection of **Guy Lombardo** and **The Inkspots** graced the turntable.

Tom's grandmother taught him guitar, his grandfather played in a band called Buck and the Buccaneers. Listening to his great uncle Joe Rutherford's stories around the dinner table showed Tom the set up for a story to end on a flourish.

As Tom tells it: "I first saw how to record from my grandfather, Dean Brosseau - Dean was a barber, also was in WWII, worked on the railroad, and was a foreman for American Crystal Sugar. When I was younger, I remember he would get dressed up- slacks, short-sleeved collar shirt that you could see the tank top thru, good pair of cowboy boots and hat, and would gather everyone around in the downstairs to play music. He would set up a microphone, positioning it just-so, and press 'record' on the tape deck: my grandmother in the background, Babe, my great aunt, sitting on the davenport, Pete, my great uncle, on clarinet, my uncle John on piano; they would all be playing one of those songs.

I first began recording like this, sort of field recordings, on Maxell, or Sony, or Radio Shack cassette tapes. It was so easy to do, so affordable, and sounding pretty good, too. If you wanted to, or had the option when it came to record, you could get fancy and use the noise reducer function, maybe cut down on the hiss. Regardless, what you got in the end on tape, aside from the voices and instruments, was the sound of the room, the dimension of the room- the natural echo, or acoustics. When I play some of the old tapes, from my grandpa, I can hear the basement and the footsteps from people upstairs, the doorbell and the telephone, the little things that get caught without plan. It was always good enough- no need to do another take."

Tom's new release, *Grand Forks* (Loveless Records, January 23, 2007) was produced by Tom's frequent collaborator, **Gregory Page**, and co-produced by **John Doe**. They recorded at the Maybellaine garage in San Diego and in Venice and in La Mesa, California in the summer heat of '06. John Doe sings a duet with Tom and Grammy Award-winning violinist **Hilary Hahn** are featured on "Fork in the Road" and Hilary on the stunning "Blue Part of the Windshield."

Grand Forks speaks of Tom's hometown Grand Forks, of the people there, of convulsions of nature, and of survival. As Tom puts it, the record is about "the great flood of 1997, homelessness, the love of the sound of the fabulous 50's/Les Paul and Mary Ford, traveling/keeping the direct sunlight out of your face on the freeway."

Labels: Loveless Records: www.lovelessrecords.com
Fatcat Records www.fat-cat.co.uk

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