

Trapper Dan is All About Us

DISCourse

with Bill Polonsky



Trapper Dan is the latest CD by Yukon musician and educator Daniel Halen.

This album takes on the trials and tribulations of life, dogs, work and play in a refreshing and humorous form in this, our very

a great singing voice and can play guitar like his soul's on fire.

The album is a blend of clever tunes, good humour, stories and a bonus travelogue that will bring you from Skagway to Whitehorse and back again. But more of that

long nights in the summer bring on a carefree ennui that someone, even on Vancouver Island, would be envious.

Hard-working truckers, loaded for bear and trying not to dump the clutch, keeping the faith, are immortalized in Ice Roads singing, "Ice roads ain't all they're cracked up to be."

In the title track, Trapper Dan, a hardened trapper comes out of the bush on occasion to drink and dance with other men's ladies. "But please don't put your hand on her tush" is the refrain from the chorus. The song ends with a quick spiritual homage to the Kinks' Lola ... you make the connection.

My vote for iPod hit of the album would be Sgt. Preston. This tune has been swimming in my head for weeks. I even heard it on the radio in Tags Grocery. Now ain't that a Yukon moment for you?

The song outlines the basic legend of Sgt. Preston, singing Mountie of the North, in his quest to bring evildoers to justice with his trusty dog, King, and his sled, "in a land that rarely thaws, powered by his sled dogs' paws".

Add to that the inspired trumpet of Don Bishop peppering his part with TV and movie themes this gem of a song will surely keep you and your kids marching around the house.

I have no kids and yet I'm still marching (hup two, hup two!).

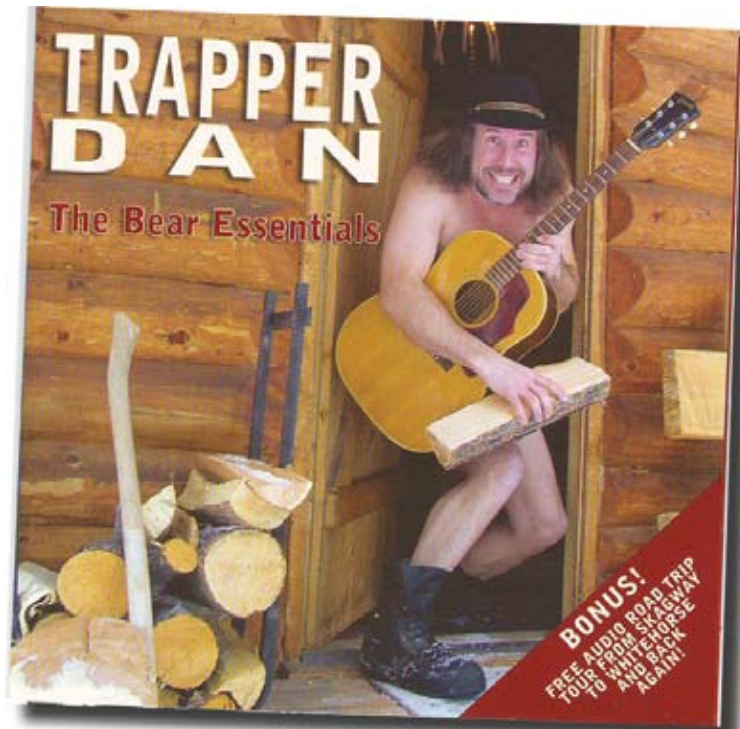
The second half of the CD is a clever travelogue/geocaching

route from Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse.

For those of you with a GPS and a CD player in your car, this may just be the thing for you. I found the travelogue historically interesting and think this part alone would make a great gift for someone new to, or visiting, the territory.

For further information regarding the geocaching portion of this CD, check out Halen's website at www.danielhalen.com and to also hear selections from this CD on every page.

Bill Polonsky can be found marching from room to room at www.strangethingsdone.com.



own Yukon.

Halen is supported in this effort by a bevy of Yukon musicians including his former band mates from Bucks and Honey, but the core of the action centres around Halen, Don Bishop on bass and Chris George on guitar.

Halen is himself endowed with

later. First, to the music.

All the tunes on this CD have facets of Yukon life and work that reflect a joy and ease of life that we hold dear to our hearts and, sometimes, kept secret from our friends and family down south.

A perfect example is Livin 867, referring to the area code; the

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