

# TIME TO BE HEARD

Peter Phippen shines light on some of his flute recordings he found in a tote box

By WILLIAM FOY

LEADER-TELEGRAM STAFF

**P**eter Phippen dug into the past for his latest album, which is true literally as well as figuratively.

The Eau Claire flutist and bassist found a tote box in his home that contained some unreleased solo flute recordings. Dated 2001 and made at Unity Christ Center in Eau Claire, the songs proved to be a welcome discovery.

“Everything was very cohesive, so when I dug into the tote and I stumbled across those, I went, ‘Well, this is ready,’” he said during a conversation at a local coffee shop.

“Peter Phippen,” a digital collection that was released at the end of last year on Ivar Lunde Jr.’s Tonheim Records label, is available via online retailers such as Amazon and iTunes and streaming services such as Spotify.

While not remembering exactly how he came to be recording at Unity Christ Center, Phippen recalled being there by himself late at night.

“I sat in the middle of the room; it’s a big room. Didn’t sound bad in there,” he said with a laugh.

The recordings had a familiar sound. “What’s funny is it sounds very Native American style, and that makes sense because that’s when I was working with Canyon Records a lot and I was thinking about things for them, and I was also studying with the late Dr. Richard Payne,” he said. (Phippen’s 2010 Grammy Award nomination, in the Best Native American Music Album category, was for “Woodnotes Wyld: Historic Flute Sounds From The Dr. Richard W. Payne Collection.”)

Phippen plays five instruments on the album: a Patrick Olwell transverse bamboo flute; a Ken LaCrosse shakuhachi flute; two Butch Hall Native American flutes, one of them bass flute; and “a very high-pitched” Lewis Webster flute.

When he settled on 13 songs, he took them to Lunde’s Skyline Studios in Eau Claire.



Photo by Julie Smith

Peter Phippen released a self-titled digital album last month. The album was recorded live to digital two track by Peter Phippen, mixed and mastered by Ivar Lunde Jr. at Skyline Publications/Skyline Studios in Eau Claire.

“I said, ‘Here you go,’” he recalled. “‘Make it sound good.’”

Lunde could relate to Phippen’s reaction to finding the material.

“I can identify with the fact there are things in the past that you sometimes happen upon and you say, ‘Well gee, I could use that’ or ‘Gee, that’s interesting’ or ‘Gee, that’s nice,’” he said. “I know Peter is very excited about what he has heard.”

After Lunde worked with the songs at his Skyline Studios and made a disc, Phippen decided three of the songs “bothered” him.

“Since I’m digging in the past anyway, I thought, we can do this the hard way or do this the easy way,” he said. “And the way is just losing these three songs. We could go in and doctor them up, but that wouldn’t be honest.”

Ten tracks appear on “Peter Phippen.”

Phippen further explained what appealed to him about the music he had found.

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## Other Projects

Here are some of flutist Peter Phippen’s projects and activities:

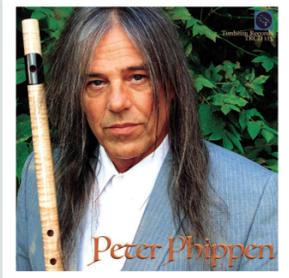
- He will appear on an album to be released in late spring or early summer with Eau Claire flutist Victoria Shoemaker and Brian Reidinger, partner and managing director of In the Groove Music, based in Minneapolis. On the album Reidinger plays percussion, synthesizer, hand drums and synthesizers, and is the album’s engineer and co-producer, along with Phippen and Shoemaker on world flutes.

- An album by Phippen and Arja Kastinen will be out later this year. Kastinen, of Finland, plays the kantele, a Baltic lap zither. This is their second album; the first, “Lavender Calm,” came out in 2011. “Lavender Calm” was produced by Phippen and Ivar Lunde Jr., owner of Skyline Studios in Eau Claire. The new recording will be produced by Kastinen in Finland.

- Shoemaker and Phippen are going to the National Flute Association convention Aug 6-9 in Dallas. They are attending as representatives of the World Flute Society; Shoemaker is the Flute Society’s youth outreach coordinator. While at the convention they will perform together on antique world flutes. They will be joining Kathleen Joyce-Grendahl, the World Flute Society’s executive director, on the trip.

- Ann Licater’s song “Celestial Traveler” won a 2019 Indian Summer Music Award in the Native Spirit category. The song appears on the album “Quiet Spaces: Flute Meditations for Mindfulness and Relaxation,” on which Phippen played bass. Phippen and Lunde joined Licater as co-producers of the album, and the album was recorded at Lunde’s Skyline Studios.

- Phippen plays Edo period shakuhachi flute on “The Air We Breathe,” the 10-minute final track of an upcoming album dropping this month by percussionist-shamanic practitioner Byron Metcalf and singer-shamanic practitioner Jennifer Grais. “Sacrament” can be pre-ordered on Bandcamp at [tinyurl.com/yx5x7ppf](http://tinyurl.com/yx5x7ppf) and on Metcalf’s website at [byronmetcalf.com/music](http://byronmetcalf.com/music).



## MAIN EVENTS

### Chamber orchestra, writers guild present concert

The Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra, in collaboration with the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild, will perform a free family concert, “Family and Friends” at 2 p.m. Saturday in Pablo Center at the Confluence’s RCU Theatre, 128 Graham Ave.

The hour-length concert with no intermission will feature Camille St. Saens’ “Carnival of the Animals” and a percussion quartet, “Tin Play” by Per Andersson. Along with ECCO’s usual musicians, the concert will feature UW-Eau Claire piano faculty members Lori Cruciani and William Whipple.

Ogden Nash wrote original poems about each movement of “Carnival of the Animals” in 1949. In this performance, local writers Jim Jeffries, Jane Jeffries, Tom Giffey, Jennifer Eddy and Jeannie Roberts have rewritten the poems with a local humor. Following the concert, Memorial and North High School Orchestra students will facilitate a musical instrument petting zoo, at which children can try out the musical instruments.

Admission is free, but a ticket must be reserved through Pablo Center at [pablocenter.org](http://pablocenter.org) or 715-832-ARTS (2787).

It is recommended that attendees reserve their spot early. The concert is made possible by grants from Visit Eau Claire, the Wisconsin Arts Board and Chilson Automotive Family of Dealerships.

### Acoustic blues musician performing at Heyde Center

CHIPPEWA FALLS — Award-winning blues-roots musician Corey Harris will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Heyde Center for the Arts, 3 S. High St.

Harris mixes the raw, direct emotion of acoustic Delta blues with a rich variety of influences — from New Orleans to the Caribbean to Africa. In doing so, he appeals to a wide spectrum of music fans.

In 2007, Harris was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship — commonly referred to as a “genius grant” — that recognizes individuals who show creativity, originality and commitment to continued innovative work. The MacArthur Foundation described Harris as an artist who “forges an adventurous path marked by deliberate eclecticism.”



Harris

Harris has performed, recorded, and toured with names such as B.B. King, Taj Mahal, Buddy Guy, R.L. Burnside, Ali Farka Toure, Dave Matthews Band and Tracy Chapman.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$19 for seniors and \$13 for youth, and are available at [cvca.net](http://cvca.net) or by calling 715-720-4961.

### Author to talk about hike with Olympians

CHIPPEWA FALLS — Author Walter Rhein will present “Hiking the Inca Trail With Two Olympians” from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Chippewa Falls Public Library, 105 W. Central St.

The presentation details adventures from a 2011 expedition on the Inca trail in Peru’s Sacred Valley.

The trip was part of the scheduled training regimen of Olympic cross-country skiers Martin Koukal and Roberto Carcelen before the Sochi Olympics in Russia in 2014.

Carcelen is a two time Olympian and Peru’s first winter Olympian. Carcelen retired after the Sochi Olympics but has come out of retirement due to a recent diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease. Carcelen now has his sights set on Beijing and will use his effort to qualify for his third Olympics as a means of generating support and

funding for Parkinson’s research and awareness.

Koukal, from the Czech Republic, was a bronze medalist at the 2010 Vancouver games in the 4 x 10 km relay.

Rhein is the author of “Beyond Birkie Fever,” a novel about the American Birkebeiner ski race first published by Rhemalda Press in 2011.

Rhein has been a featured speaker at Midwest Mountaineering, the Chippewa Valley Book Festival and the Fox Rivers Book Festival. The presentation is a humorous talk featuring photos from the epic journey.

Admission is free, and Rhein will be available for conversation and book sales after the presentation.

For more information call 715-723-1146 or go to [chippewafallslibrary.org](http://chippewafallslibrary.org).

### Museum presents art shows inside and outside

Two art shows bring color to The Chippewa Valley Museum from Tuesday through March 7 inside and outside the building.

Inside, “The Warmth and Whimsy Winter Art Show” features 43 original works of art created by 27 regional artists. Outside, “Barn Quilt-scape,” showcasing 24 brilliantly painted “barn quilts,” runs



Contributed photo

The Chippewa Valley Museum in Carson Park will present two art shows beginning Tuesday: “The Warmth and Whimsy Winter Art Show” inside the museum; and, outside, “Barn Quilt-scape.”

the length of the museum.

The winter art show’s theme was selected because “this is the time of year when color, whimsy, and warm thoughts are most needed,” museum educator Karen Jacobson said. Artwork for “Warmth and Whimsy” was selected by a panel of three volunteer jurors. A \$150 prize will be awarded to the piece judged best in show by the jurors and announced at the artists’ reception 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 28, at the museum. The public is invited to the artists’ reception, which has a weather-contingency date of Tuesday, Feb. 4. Many of the artworks on display are for sale by the artists.

“Barn Quilt-scape” is a collection of boards painted as quilt blocks by artists under the direction of Mary Felton-Kolstad.

Barn quilts are intended to be displayed on the exterior of homes, barns and other buildings and can often be found in rural landscapes.

The Chippewa Valley Museum is located at 1204 East Half Moon Drive in Carson Park.

“The Warmth and Whimsy” show can be viewed 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, with extended hours until 8 p.m. Tuesday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The show is included in museum admission, which is \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 5 to 17, and free for members and children younger than 5. “Barn Quilt-scape” is free and visible during daylight hours.

For more information call 715-834-7871 or go to [cvmuseum.com](http://cvmuseum.com).

From staff reports

## BOOK REVIEW

# Harris imagines bleak world

Western, science fiction, mystery and magical realism meld

BY OLIVE H. COGDILL  
SUN SENTINEL (TNS)

**“The Longer Fall” by Charlaune Harris; Saga Press (320 pages, \$26.99).**

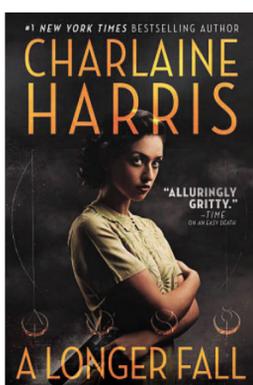
Harris has proved herself to be a master at creating alternative worlds and populating them with believable characters, no matter how fanciful, and plots that complement these worlds. She did that by inventing the urban fantasy subgenre with her successful Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood series filled with vampires, werewolves and a telepathic barmaid.

Now in her Gunner Rose novels, Harris tackles a different kind of world that is far removed from supernatural creatures. Instead, Harris has created an alternate history set in a broken-up United States following Franklin Roosevelt's assassination. Poverty and racism are widespread; magic really happens, though not widely embraced.

Tenets of the Western, science fiction, mystery and magical realism meld in this new series of which “A Longer Fall” is the second installment.

No vampires in this bleak dystopia — though one might be welcomed. But there is a commonality between the two series' heroines. Sookie and the young bodyguard Lizbeth “Gunnie” Rose are physically slight but both are strong in body and mind.

“A Longer Fall” finds Gunnie and her new crew hired to protect a mysterious crate and



move it from Texoma to Sally, a town in Dixie. Following a train derailment and a violent shootout, the crate disappears, leading Gunnie to suspect that one of her mercenary guards has betrayed the team.

To find the crate, Gunnie and her sometimes lover Eli Savarov go undercover in a town that embraces the 19th century's society norms. The town is not ready for someone as independent as sharp-shooter Gunnie nor Eli, who is a Russian prince skilled in magic. Especially when Eli wants to help Sally's oppressed black residents who are controlled by a white family. Enemies come from different factions, including Russian wizards, or grigoris.

The Gunner Rose series requires readers to embrace suspension of disbelief. But the payoff is well worth it as Harris creates new countries, different timelines and challenges. Harris' imagination is on high alert as she takes chances with “A Longer Fall” and her characters. Gunner Rose — few dare to call her Lizbeth — has seen way too much for a 19-year-old, but has little choice if she is to survive this brave new world. Her common sense and fine eye and steady hand with a rifle serve her well as does her compassion for others.

Harris' aim is true in “A Longer Fall.”

## VIEWPOINT

# Oscars snub women, actors of color

Nominations again reveal Academy's blind spots

BY MOIRA MACDONALD  
THE SEATTLE TIMES (TNS)

While we'll be spending plenty of time in the next few weeks talking about the big winners — wow, those voters really liked “Joker,” which led the pack with 11 nominations — let's devote a bit of time to that most delightful Oscars tradition: complaining about the snubs.

• Let's start right off with the directing category, where Greta Gerwig was not nominated — despite her film, “Little Women,” getting nods for writing, acting and best picture. (The Academy has long been reluctant to recognize women in this category; only five women directors have been nominated in its history). Likewise, Noah Baumbach wasn't nominated for “Marriage Story,” despite a strong showing for the film. The Gerwig-Baumbach household (they're partners off-screen) must be a place of mixed emotions.

• In the lead acting categories, apparently the Academy members have short memories. In best actress, not enough of them recalled one of the most remarkable performances of the year: Lupita Nyong'o in “Us,” which opened back in March. Also disappointed, surely, was Awkwafina (who won a Golden Globe for her work in “The Farewell,” a film entirely snubbed). In lead actor was a surprising snub for a veteran: Robert DeNiro wasn't nominated in “The Irishman,” despite seven previous nominations. Other acclaimed work that wasn't recognized in that category included Edie Murphy in “Dolomite Is My Name,” Christian Bale in “Ford v Ferrari” and Taron Egerton in “Rocketman” (the latter, a Golden Globe winner, campaigned heavily for



Associated Press

Directors Greta Gerwig, left, and Noah Baumbach appear at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards Jan. 5 in Beverly Hills, Calif. Both Gerwig and Baumbach failed to receive Oscar nominations for best director for their films “Little Women” and “Marriage Story,” respectively, but they did receive nominations for adapted screenplay for Gerwig and original screenplay for Baumbach.

a nomination — which apparently doesn't always work).

• Don't look for Jennifer Lopez to make a fashion statement on Oscar night; she wasn't nominated for supporting actress, despite strong reviews for her work in “Hustlers.” Also missing from that list: Meryl Streep in “Little Women,” Nicole Kidman in “Bombshell” (despite her two co-stars, Charlize Theron and Margot Robbie, being nominated), and Zhao Shuzhen in “The Farewell.” And despite a strong showing for “Parasite” (six nominations, including best picture and director), none of its cast was nominated — a particularly egregious snub in the supporting actor category, where Song Kang Ho, who played the inventive working-class father in the film, was left off. (If you're seeing a bit of a pattern here, yes: The Academy needs to

continue to make progress in recognizing the performances of actors of color.)

• The best picture roster had nine films on it (out of a possible 10). What film was on the cusp and missed making the list? Maybe Pedro Almodóvar's “Pain & Glory,” maybe Rian Johnson's “Knives Out,” maybe Terrence Malick's “A Hidden Life,” maybe Lulu Wang's “The Farewell” (for my money, the year's most enchanting journey).

• Other miscellaneous snubs: Where was Anna

Robbins' nomination for the glorious costumes of “Downton Abbey”? Or Jess Gonchor's, for the gorgeous production design of “Little Women”? Or Jorg Wilmer, for the breathtaking cinematography of “A Hidden Life”?

The Academy Award ceremony will be — hostless, as it was last year — on Sunday, Feb. 9, by which time we'll all have moved on to talking about who will win, not who wasn't nominated.

## Recordings show how Phippen has evolved

» FLUTE  
FROM PAGE 3E

“I really wanted: You start playing at the beginning and you end — there's a track. That's a performance. It's not a cut and paste job,” he said. “So Ivar (said), ‘We could save this.’ I know we could save them, but no, let's not. Don't need them.”

Lunde, a classically trained musician, music professor emeritus at UW-Eau Claire and award-winning composer, has proved to be an empathetic as well as skilled collaborator.

“We talk about all kinds of technical things, of course, but that's not the issue,” Lunde said. “What he has going for him, which is very admirable, is that he has a natural talent for making music. It's well proportioned and it really sings. .... His heart is in it, and that makes a difference. What I can say in a short way is that he is a natural.”

There is more material from the recordings Phippen could release, and he likes the fact that today's recording practice mean he doesn't have to have a full-length album to let the public hear his work but can release singles or EPs.

The process of selecting songs gave Phippen insight into his own playing.

“The funny thing is my playing's so much different

now,” he said. “I've never controlled my playing; my playing has moved on. And I listened to it, and I went, Oh, I guess that's how I played then.”

He described the playing as “very minimal.” “I guess I'm still a minimalist. ... I don't know. I can't explain it, I just know my playing has changed, and a lot.”

Phippen continues to be happily surprised that he found the flute, after starting his musical career as a rock 'n' roll bassist for groups such as Airkraft, a regional band that earned recognition on the national level.

“In early March 1987, I'm a touring rock 'n' roll bassist and I find a bamboo penny whistle for 25 cents,” he said. “OK. And I start booking myself at what used to be The Breadline or the New Deli (on Galloway Street in Eau Claire) for little of nothing ... just to play the damn flute.”

Thirty-two years later, he remains modest about his ability on the instrument despite his national recognition and invitation to collaborate with high-profile musicians.

“So what am I?” he said. “I guess I'm a musician, a bass player, a mediocre acoustic guitarist who found my voice, or my true voice, on bamboo tubes with holes in them. And

I'm self-taught.”

Those comments fit with a quote from blogger and memoirist Ann Voskamp that Phippen put on his website announcing the

release of “Peter Phippen”: “Simplicity is ultimately a matter of focus.”

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## Upcoming EVENTS

### COMEDIAN NATHAN TIMMEL

Friday, January 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Nathan finds the absurdity in everything from making babies to overcrowded prisons, creating comedy that's intelligent, fun, and engaging (with a sprinkling of raucousness). This show earns a PG-13+ rating.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors \$14



### COREY HARRIS ACOUSTIC BLUES LEGEND

Saturday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Corey Harris mixes the raw, direct emotion of acoustic Delta Blues with a rich variety of influences — from New Orleans to the Caribbean to Africa.

Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors \$19, Youth \$13

### GINA CHAVEZ LATIN POP SONGSTRESS

Thursday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Chavez's passionate collection of bilingual songs take audiences on a journey through the Americas, blending the sounds and rhythms of the region with tension and grace.

Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors \$19, Youth 13



**Heyde Center For The Arts**  
3 S. High St., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

For tickets or information  
visit [www.cvca.net](http://www.cvca.net) or call 715-726-9000

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