

Tamarack - Bio

Based in Ontario, Canada and formed in 1980, initially as a quartet, the line-up featured Alex Sinclair [guitar/vocals], James Gordon guitar/whistle/synthesiser/vocals], Randy Sutherland [percussion] and Jeff Bird [fiddle/mandolin/backing vocal]. Using acoustic instruments, from the outset their music, a melodic, harmony rich concoction, focused on *the Canadian experience* – the history of the people and the landscape they survive upon. Over the years, the material they have performed onstage and on their recordings, has been a mix of traditional songs and original material, much of the latter penned by band members [past and present]. By the latter part of the eighties Sutherland left the band to be replaced by David Houghton. When Houghton and Bird departed in the early nineties, Gwen Swick [bass/vocals] was their replacement. Midway through the closing decade of last century, Swick left and Molly Kurvink joined the band. The current line-up of the trio consists of Alex Sinclair, Molly Kurvink and Shelley Coopersmith (violin, mandolin, vocals), following the departure of founder member, James Gordon, a couple of years ago. According to the folk magazine Dirty Linen, "*This is a band who knows what the music they play should sound like, and knows how to make it sound that way.*" Over their two-decade existence, they have toured Canada, the United States and Scotland and England, performing at summer festivals, concert halls, schools and libraries. CBC has screened two documentaries produced by the band on the Rideau Canal (1989) and the Grand River (1996).

Selected Discography : **A Pleasant Gale** (1982) SGB ; **The Tamarack Collection [The Best of 1980-85]** (1985) SGB ; **Shave The Bear** (1989) SGB ; **Fields Of Rock & Snow** (1991) SGB ; **On The Prairies** (1993) Folk Era ; **Frobisher Bay** (1993) Folk Era ; **On The Grand – The Story Of A River** (1994) Folk Era ; **The Fifteenth Anniversary Concert** (1995) SGB ; **Muskoka's Calling** (1996) SGB ; **Leaving Inverarden** (1996) Folk Era ; **Thirteen** (1998) Folk Era ; **Blankets of Snow** (1998) SGB ; **Spirit and Stone** (2000) Wind River ; **Tree** (2001) SGB.

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