

## Keith Greeninger – Bio

Keith Greeninger was born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley in Northern California. At the age of thirteen Keith got his first guitar, an old classical model, and wrote his first song the same day. Already addicted to listening to the pop music played on local AM radio stations, Greeninger was soon writing songs on a regular basis. Some people are born to roam, and by his late teens Greeninger began a journey that took him from coast to coast of America, North to Alaska and South to Latin America - in particular, Mexico and Nicaragua. He lived in Nicaragua helping to build schools and houses during the height of the U.S./C.I.A. backed Contra War. Considering his California roots and Greeninger's visit to Mexico, it's small wonder that much of his music possesses that borderland feel.

Returning to the San Francisco Bay area of California, circa 1989, Keith, Kimball Hurd and Roger Feuer formed City Folk. Their first recording **“Catch A Glimpse”** appeared on the Fall Morning label the following year. Initially west-coast based, the threesome gradually built a national following. Following City Folk's first nationwide tour, and the release in 1995 by Thunderbird Records of **“Shadows On The Wall,”** the members decided to go their separate ways soon afterwards. In 1995, City Folk won radio station KFOG's “Best of The Bay” music award. For the ensuing two years, Keith and his wife retreated to the Santa Cruz mountains, where they built a home and witnessed the arrival of their first child. The summer of 1996 found Greeninger in Fernie, British Columbia, where he assisted the organizers of the first Gathering at Island Lake Music Festival create this, now, annual event. An integral part of the Lake Music Festival is the inclusion of performances by native-born artists - mainly, from the Black Foot and Cree tribes.

1997 saw the release of Keith's debut solo album, the quite exceptional **“Wind River Crossing.”** A self-produced recording, credited to Wind River Music, it featured classic songs such as “Josephina” and “Mercy Of The San Joaquin.” I saw Greeninger perform for the first time at the 1999 Kerrville Festival. In regard to **“Wind River Crossing”** I wrote soon afterwards, “...all the way from the gentle opening, title cut through to the eleven minute closer “North to Southeast,” **“Wind River Crossing”** is a musical journey of truly epic and thoughtful proportions.” Early June 1997 found Keith down in Texas where he was one of the six winners of the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival's annual New Folk Songwriting competition. Later that year, he won the songwriting competition at California's Napa Valley Folk Festival. By the late nineteen nineties Keith had begun working with folk/jazz trio Water, led by Dayan Kai. Last year, supported by the trio, Keith released an eight-song album titled **“Live Studio Tracks.”** **“Back To You”** Greeninger's second solo album, which also features Water, appeared in the Spring of this year. The contents did not disappoint.

The City Folk CD **“In Another's Eyes”** subtitled **“The Unreleased Plant Sessions”** features early versions of “Josephina” and “As Far As I Can Tell” from **“Wind River Crossing”** and “Waiting For The Rain” from **“Back To You.”** Having been recorded through late 1995, it was finally released in 2002. The trio have reunited from time to time, and in 2005 performed at the Kate Wolf Memorial Music Festival and the Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon. In 2004 Keith produced the Nancy Cassidy album **“You Reel Me In.”** Following a five-year hiatus, having pursued his trade as a carpenter and watched his kids grow, and only occasionally performed in public, Greeninger released **“Glorious Peasant”** during early 2006. The previous year, Keith entered and won the Telluride Troubadours Songwriting Contest.

### Discography :

with City Folk - **“Catch A Glimpse”** [1990] ; **“Shadows On The Wall”** [1995] ; **“In Another's Eyes”** [1995/2002] :

Solo - **“Wind River Crossing”** [1997] ; **“Live Studio Tracks”** limited edition release [2000] ; **“Back To You”** [2001] ; **“Glorious Peasant”** [2006] :

### Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 11/01 & 07/06

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