

Scott Alarik – Bio

Scott Alarik was born on 5th January 1951 and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was Scott's older brother, Steve, manager of the city venue Coffeehouse Extempore, who sparked in his interest in folk music and in becoming a professional performer. Scott was also politically active during the late sixties and his refusal to register for the draft resulted in a nineteen-month prison sentence that he served during the early 1970's. Having completed his custodial sentence Alarik once more ignited his career in music, and in 1978 the Swallowtail label released Scott's debut album "**Stories.**" For a time Alarik worked on Garrison Keillor's then fledgling radio show A Prairie Home Companion. Scott was accompanied by the Companion house band, the New Prairie Ramblers, on his sophomore Swallowtail label release "**Scott Alarik With The New Prairie Ramblers,**" a recording co-produced by Alarik and Peter Ostroushko. Alarik relocated to Boston soon after releasing his third album "**Simply Christmas.**"

During his years as an active touring musician Alarik appeared at numerous prestigious folk venues including Caffe Lena, the Coffeehouse Extempore, Somebody Else's Troubles, Earl of Old Town, Godfrey Daniels, the Cherry Tree, the Folkway, Old Vienna, the Speakeasy, and Club Passim. He also appeared at numerous folk festivals including Philadelphia and Winnipeg. Once settled into Boston life, Scott began writing articles for the Black Sheep Review, a folk publication, and his work soon came to the notice of The Boston Globe's folk music and theatre critic Jeff McLaughlin. Alarik was appointed folk music critic of The Boston Globe in 1986, and as a result he cut back his performance schedule.

Circa late 1990 Alarik founded The New England Folk Almanac in conjunction with the Folk Arts Network, when the Globe cut back its folk music coverage. He edited and contributed to the Folk Almanac during the period 1991 through 1997. A regional publication at the outset, it soon achieved national distribution. Alarik parted company with the publication in 1997 and it folded the following year. Scott has also contributed to Sing Out! Having continued to work, albeit occasionally, as a performing musician in 1995 Scott issued the cassette only collection "**Old Fashioned.**" The release of the CD "**-30-**" marked Alarik's thirtieth year as a performing musician. Since 2000 Alarik has performed at numerous New England festivals, including Philadelphia, Boston and Champlain Valley, and in 2003 he hosted the Newport Folk Festival.

Published by Boston based Black Wolf Press, Alarik's book "**Deep Community**" [2003] subtitled "**Adventures In The Modern Folk Underground**" consisted of Boston Globe and Sing Out! articles dating from 1992 through 2002. "**All That Is True,**" Alarik's latest solo release was produced by fiddler/pianist Hanneke Cassel, and the contributing musicians include vocalist Aoife O'Donovan and cellist Rushad Eggleston from Crooked Still, fiddler Eric Merrill, banjoist Greg Liszt, and mandolin/guitar playing songwriter Jake Armerding.

Discography : "**Stories**" [1978] ; "**Scott Alarik With The New Prairie Ramblers**" [1981] ; "**Simply Christmas**" [1983] ; "**Old Fashioned**" cassette only [1995] ; "**-30-**" [2000] ; "**All That Is True**" [2006] :

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