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GREG QUILL and JON BROOKS songs of love, war and reconciliation

It's rare to find two songwriters whose musical origins, life experiences and world views are so greatly separated by geographical and temporal differences, yet who have so much in common.

When Australia's **Greg Quill**, founder and songwriter with the influential 1970s Australia folk-rock band **Country Radio** ('Gypsy Queen', 'Wintersong', 'Fleetwood Plain'), and award-winning Toronto-based poet and composer **Jon Brooks** first shared a stage at Toronto's premier concert club, Hugh's Room, in 2008, it was immediately apparent to both performers and the audience that they also shared a unique and profound commitment to song craft and lyrical inventiveness, as well as an unusually informed and compassionate understanding of how social, political and economic shifts make outcasts of underdogs.

A generation apart, Greg and Jon come together from across a great divide, drawn to each other's songs by the only things Canadians and Australians do have in common – distances, an obsession with bleak horizons, extreme climates, and barely remembered links to a colonial heritage. Greg's songs are personal and often brittle narratives of love, loss, spiritual longing, separation and forgiveness, rooted in Australia's folk ballad traditions. Jon's songs are both topical – drawn from real events that forge larger allegories, voiced by authentic personalities – and timeless, culled from years wandering in war-ravaged, post-Soviet Europe and through the hard streets and troubled conscience of Canada's new reality.

The yarns that both songwriters spin in their compelling musical conversation on stage create uniquely different landscapes. But they embody a common humanity and faith in our better impulses – and in the healing power of music.

"It made sense to bring our private musical exchanges to the stage," says Greg, who's working with Melbourne-based **Aztec Musics'** Gil Matthews and Ted Lethborg on a reissue of his **solo recordings** and **Country Radio's** back catalogue, for release later in 2011. "Jon's songs play out like novels or short stories. And he's a clever and intuitive guitar player. We speak the same musical language."

A festival favourite in North America, Jon has earned a reputation as a songwriter of conscience. "The purpose of songwriting, for me, is to unite people through empathy," he says. "Direct, shouted protest has never worked for me as well as indirect story telling."

Quill is based in Toronto these days, so don't miss this chance to see him perform alongside Jon Brooks, who will be making his Australian debut.

www.gregquill.com

www.jonbrooks.ca

YouTube video links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx6rGe--c7Y>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCvQl8tQjtq>

Interviews through:

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