

Stone Soup

PROFILE

They say the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and that is certainly true when you have experienced and wide-ranging musicians coming together as a unique ensemble. But it is nonetheless good to know the parts of that greater whole:

Peter Kim-Fredell, lead vocals and acoustic guitar:

Peter likes to point out that he started playing guitar "before everybody and his brother was playing the guitar." At the age of thirteen he joined his first gigging band: trumpet, sax, trombone, guitar and drums, playing the standards of another generation at the occasional junior high school dance. But he and the drummer soon left to join a real rock and roll band with some older guys. By the time he was fifteen he had taken over the lead singer slot and written several songs, and the group had become a fixture on the active high school dance and teen club scene of the day. At seventeen he had begun developing the acoustic side, coming under the influence of artists like Dave Van Ronk, Buffy Saint-Marie, Tom Rush, Judy Collins, Bob Dylan, and Joni Mitchell. He started college at music school (as a tuba player, of all things) but that didn't take, and neither did the hitchhike to NYC to break into the folk scene (guitar stolen, the chastened provincial thumbs his way home). Not long after came a touring stint in the Boston area as rock band lead singer, and thus a pattern of moving back and forth between acoustic "folksinger" and electrified "rock guy" settled in—until a plunge into world music complicated the design. Eventually, he founded Stone Soup in order to satisfy a wider vision of acoustic-style music, bringing many elements into the mix. He also currently does studio projects of "plugged" and "unplugged" original music.

John Bagale, drums, windjammer, piano, and harmony vocals:

John has performed and taught music in the Rochester area for over thirty years. He has also composed music for television, film and dance. He holds music degrees from Nazareth College and the Eastman School of Music. Currently, John teaches music theory/composition, general music and music technology at Penfield High School. He lives in Pittsford with his wife Moire. Together they have three sons, each of whom are in the music business.

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