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## COMMUNITY NURTURING COUNTS

Musician Johnny Popoff values his strong local roots and the support he's received over the years from his native Boundary Community. In a recent conversation Popoff reflected on key factors that helped to further his musical development, presently manifested in Lava, the folk/pop band from New Zealand, with which he is touring.

"I believe that my love of music began from birth, with my family, and with the USCC Doukhobor Community, which has a strong musical tradition", says Popoff.

Later, when his personal gift became evident, Faust and Jean Pinto were among his earliest mentors and teachers. When Faust was leaving Grand Forks, he recommended Johnny into the capable hands of music teacher, Tracy Garvin, who guided him through to an Honours completion of the Royal Conservatory program. He also feels a debit of gratitude to his school musical instructors, such as Doug Wille and Randy Breedveld, as well as to local arts activists such as Erna Gobbett and many others for the continuing support and encouragement that he received.

Johnny went on to an Honours certificate from Selkirk College School of Music and an Honours B.A. in Music Composition from UVic, where he also became actively involved in the prestigious UVic Chamber Singers, participating in several world tours. There was also a tour throughout BC - Chamber Conductor Bruce More remarked that the Boundary provided the best response he'd experienced in his 34 year conducting career!

In between all of that "Vanya Popov" has found time to organize two Doukhobor choirs, participated in several others and released several bestselling CD recordings, including one of his own original compositions for piano, produced with the help of local, John Vere.

“None of that would have been possible without all of the help and support I’ve received from the people in my hometown”, concludes Popoff, “I’m really looking forward to sharing the Lava experience with all friends, neighbours and musical colleagues back home!”

**LAVA’s April 21<sup>st</sup> Concert at the GFSS Centennial Auditorium begins at 7:30 P.M., with an opening appearance by Joan Thompson’s Second Street Singers and Leeza and Eddie. Advance tickets are available at The Source, Gallery 2, Thistle Pot Gifts and the USCC Office, or call (250) 442-5397. Adults: \$15.00 (\$18.00 at the door); Students/Children: \$7.00 (\$10.00 at the door). Seating limited, so call early.**