

WHAT TIME IS IT, MR. FOX?

CORE TRIO: BRIAN KING – VOICE, KEYS, GUITAR
NATHAN COHEN – VIOLIN, TRUMPET MIKE LEGGIO – UPRIGHT BASS

FULL BAND WITH: NATE GREENSLIT – DRUMS LORI PERKINS – HAMMOND ORGAN
COURTENAY VANDIVER – CELLO LEIGH CALABRESE – MUSICAL SAW
KRISTEN MILLER – CELLO

"an emotional powerhouse...not like anything you've ever heard"
- Christopher Treacy, *IN NEWSWEEKLY*

*"If you have yet to check out one of Boston's best 'noir rock' bands,
What Time is it, Mr. Fox?, you're way behind."* - Anthony King, *BAY WINDOWS*

*"Brian King has one of the most gorgeous voices I have ever heard...
music for broken, ripped and bloody hearts."* - Leah Callahan, *THE NOISE*

*"swooning romantic beauty, melancholy, puckish wit, a mix of folk,
jazz and German Cabaret."* - Greg Cook, *GLOUCESTER DAILY TIMES*

"Our favorite Boston band" - Holly Brewer, *HUMANWINE*

"Brian's voice is the last thing I want to hear before I go to sleep...one of the best"
- Whoopi Goldberg

What Time Is It, Mr. Fox? is like an alchemical experiment. The band fuses and integrates different genres, theories and ideas, creating new recipes to unlock hearts and unify a room. In one set the ensemble can travel from an acoustic coffeehouse to New Orleans soul, from gothic blues to a Middle Eastern desert or the woods of medieval France. Named after a Victorian children's game, and anchored by the "haunting, chameleon-like voice" (*Metronome*) of singer-songwriter front-man, **Brian King**, the band spins new fairy tales and steeps them in folk noir and neo-cabaret. Many songs are bustling with memorable characters like a boy who turns into a cartoon or a woman who rescues herself from a tower, while others, pure and vulnerable, "deftly explore themes of love, sexuality and identity." (*Bay Windows*)

Born in the seaport city of Gloucester MA, **Brian King** grew up with a love of the mystical. Enamored with *The Wizard of Oz*, King couldn't decide who he wanted to be more, Dorothy or the Wicked Witch. Throughout his teen years Brian fell in love with the music of Siouxsie & the Banshees, Kate Bush, and later Leonard Cohen, Laura Nyro and Joni Mitchell. His diary was documented in piles of cassettes containing hours of original music recorded on a Tascam 4-track.

Throughout his early twenties, King formed several punk and acoustic rock bands. Inspired by the works of Jean Cocteau, Maya Deren and Sandra Bernhard, he explored performance art and mixed media, often incorporating video and confessional comedic monologues into his performances with troupes like the **Burlesque Revival Association**. His gender defying voice has been compared to Jeff Buckley, Bessie Smith and Annie Lennox. In 2008 his song "Cold Rain" was recorded by Grammy Award-winning "Soul Queen of New Orleans," **Irma Thomas**, on her Rounder Records release "Simply Grand." *Rolling Stone* and *The Village Voice* highlighted the track in their album

reviews and the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* declared the song "'a little musical masterpiece. If its gentle passion doesn't move you, get a heart transplant.'"

In 2002, King started performing regularly with violinist and trumpeter, **Nathan Cohen**. Cohen's unique talent for blending classical, Celtic, and gypsy styles perfectly matches the rich imagery of King's lyrics. Also a Gloucester native, Cohen took up violin at age of 4. An adventurer, explorer, storyteller and romantic, Cohen is quick to drop sail and set course for far-flung lands. In addition to Macalester College in Minnesota, he studied music at the Kodaly Institute in Hungary, the University of Ghana in Accra, and independently in the Middle East, the British Isles and Micronesia. Cohen is the director of an orchestra and chamber music program in the Rockport Public Schools. He performs regularly with HUMANWINE, Copal, the Cape Ann Symphony, and other ensembles around Boston.

After a year of making music together, King and Cohen decided to call their duo **What Time Is It, Mr. Fox?** The nature of the question, teasing with notions of time and reality, describes the band's flair for delving into various genres and eras, and a taste for Lewis Carroll and Brothers Grimm. In 2004 bass player, **Mike Leggio** (Sugar Twins, Sukey Tawdry) added his acoustic double-bass to the mix, solidifying the core sound. With a degree in jazz and composition, Leggio can easily switch from 1920's style blues to deep bowed tones for a creepy waltz. Then in 2006, mad scientist drummer, **Nate Greenslit** joined Fox immediately after hearing them on a bill with his other Boston Music Award-winning band, HUMANWINE. Quickly, the ensemble grew to include cellists, **Kristen Miller** and **Courtenay Vandiver** (A Far Cry, Jethro Tull), as well as **Miss Lori Perkins** (Seks Bomba) on hammond organ. **Leigh Calabrese** (Beat Circus, Sob Sisters) regularly accompanies the band with her spooky singing saw, which earned her a 2004 nomination for best "other" instrumentalist in Boston's *The Noise*.

In November 2008, the What Time Is It, Mr. Fox? releases the full-length studio CD "And Other Stories." The album is like an anthology of dark children's stories for adults. Recorded mostly at Thomas Eaton Recording in Newburyport, MA with overdubs in attics, bathrooms, and abandoned buildings, including several locations in San Francisco engineered by **Jesse Parsons** (Sebadoh, Devendra Banhart), "And Other Stories" also includes contributions from a variety of Boston musicians, including **Walter Sickert and the Army of Broken Toys**, drummer **Russ Lawton** (Trey Anastasio), Grammy-award winning producer, **Scott Billington** on harmonica, numerous accordionists, flute and horn players.

From the sexual religious pathos of "**Fisher King**" and the driving carnival tale of "**Horror Cartoon**" to the mellow Philadelphia soul and chamber strings of "**Gospel of Beauty**," stark piano blues of "**So Mean**," trance-hop torch of "**The Fog**" or the epic fairytale twist of "**The Tower**," the entire CD is in essence a search for the emotional Holy Grail. Throughout the songs are soulful meditations on love, identity and the constant struggle between the inner reality and external fantasy. "And Other Stories" can be purchased at CDBaby.com, iTunes, and at concert performances.

FOR PERFORMANCES AND NEWS PLEASE VISIT: www.myspace.com/whattimeisitmrfox
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