

LOU AND PETER BERRYMAN

[music]

BILL HART: Welcome to another edition of In the Pines, the program of homegrown folk music performed and recorded in Upper Michigan and northeastern Wisconsin. I'm Bill Hart. While folk music performance, particularly in the era of festivals, has always included humor, it's rare to hear musicians that specialize in comedy and satire. And the rarest place in the business due to the high caliber of work is the Madison, Wisconsin duo of Lou and Peter Berryman. Even the instrumentation is a bit prickly, featuring Lou's accordion solos over Peter's 12-string guitar. Prepare yourself for a heavy dose of [unintelligible] as we attend the 9th annual Hiawatha Music Festival in Marquette for a concert with Lou and Peter Berryman.

[music]

MALE VOICE: Thank you. That's one of our food [unintelligible] songs, this is another one.

FEMALE VOICE: This song is all about food and romance, and it's called "Crab Canape."

[music]

M: That song mentions the corndog, which is kind of important to us down in Wisconsin, we're still passing around a petition to have the corndog be made the new state animal down there. We're gonna do a song right now about censorship.

F: [unintelligible] but we decided that's [unintelligible] on our album, the parents aren't gonna buy it for their children, and children aren't gonna buy it for their parents, I figured that one out there. But it's called "A Chat with Your Mom."

[music]

F: You know, [unintelligible] in Wisconsin, [unintelligible] sing a bunch of songs that have a lot of references to Wisconsin in them, and it's just about time for Wisconsin and for the [unintelligible] to go elsewhere, and it's always the same for us that we have a state that we can't connect with the audience [unintelligible] by singing about places that they're familiar with the way we can at home. So I was thinking, wouldn't it be nice if we had a song for every place that we've visited when we play. So what we did is we wrote a generic song. [unintelligible] this has a meaning for all of you because there are specific places in this song that you'll recognize as being part of Michigan or Minnesota, any place you might be from. This is our really generic state song, and it's called "Your State's Name Here."

[music]

M: Thank you. We have two states to go with that song. [unintelligible] We're gonna do our mystical song right now, one of our mystical songs. This is dedicated to anyone who's ever had a mystical experience. Had mine [unintelligible] a vending machine. This is also for anyone who's shaved their heads, put on big [unintelligible] robes, and gone down to O'Hare Airport with a hubcap to collect money for anything. And it's called "The Mystical Path."

[music]

M: Thank you. Gonna do a seasonal song right now. This is- our last album was called February March, so we figured we had to write a song called April May, and this is it.

[music]

F: Thank you.

M: Thank you.

F: We're gonna do a song- I think it's the only First Amendment protest song [unintelligible] song that we've ever written. This song is all about thermonuclear war and the [unintelligible]. This song is called "When Did We Have Sauerkraut."

[music]

B: You've been listening to Lou and Peter Berryman from the July 1987 Hiawatha Folk Festival in Marquette. Our thanks to the Hiawatha Music Cooperative for helping to make this program possible. I'm Bill Hart, see you next time In the Pines.

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