



Media Advisory

ASSETS; Photos, Interviews

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IRON RANGER PAUL METSA AMONG THOSE PLAYING RECENT 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGENDARY GERDES FOLK CITY CLUB IN NEW YORK WHERE BOB DYLAN DEBUTED, ALONG WITH A HANDFUL OF OTHER ARTISTS WITH FOLK-ROCK MUSIC ROOTS

TWIN CITIES – January 30, 2020 – The Minnesota artist from Virginia, Minnesota, that the Huffington Post once called “Minnesota’s other great Iron Range songwriter,” Paul Metsa, realized yet another Bob Dylan benchmark recently. On January 24, 2020, he helped celebrate “Gerde’s Folk City at 60” -- the 60-year anniversary of the opening of Gerdes Folk City club in New York, the famous and intimate Greenwich Village spot where Dylan made his New York City debut in 1961, opening for bluesman John Lee Hooker. The club subsequently supported an array of artists, from folk to blues to rock including Sonic Youth.

Metsa played the anniversary gig at The Iridium (Gerdes no longer exists) with fellow folkies Carolyn Hester, the UK’s James Maddock, Terre Roche (from The Roches), rocker

Willie Nile, Rob Stoner, the band director of Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue, Richard Barone from The Bongos, and others to commemorate the opening of the West Village nightspot, which *Rolling Stone* magazine named one of the three top music venues in the world, along with [The Cavern](#) and [CBGB](#).



Folkies Carolyn Hester and Metsa

Metsa's performance caught the critical ear of Liz Thomson, writing [a review](#) of the show for theartsdesk.com in the Big Apple:

"Paul Metsa, who like Dylan hails from the Iron Range and is a sort-of American Billy Bragg, offered a set that included 'Walkin' in a Woman's World,' while the marvelously entertaining Stoner wore various musical hats and sung 'Forever Young' as he had done on the Elvis-style Dylan demo that Presley unaccountably turned down."

"It was an incredible honor sharing the stage with those performers celebrating the magic and memories of Folk City. It was cooler than winning a Grammy," noted Metsa, who made his own NYC debut at Folk City in 1985 and just celebrated his 40 years in the business last month at the Parkway Theatre in south Minneapolis. "That it happened on the 59th anniversary to the day that Dylan arrived in NYC was a beautiful coincidence for this Iron Range folkie!"

For more information – or to interview Paul Metsa about his experience at Gerdes 60th – please contact Martin Keller at the above number and email address.



LtoR: Richard Barone, Paul Metsa, Willie Nile, Rob Stoner: Celebrating Gerdes Folk City's 60th!