April 12, 2012: Arnie Johnston in Concert with guest D. N. Bremer

Department of English
Thursday, April 12, 2012

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6 PM, APRIL 8, 2012

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Over the past twenty years Arnie Johnston has established himself as perhaps the foremost translator of songs by Jacques Brel, the noted Belgian singer-songwriter whose work entranced millions of listeners and theatergoers until his untimely death in 1978. On his 1997 CD Jacques Brel: I'm Here! Arnie performs nineteen of his eighty or so translations of Brel's songs; a 2011 CD, By the Riverbank, features fifteen of his translated lyrics (by French poets of the period) for songs by nineteenth-century French composer Gabriel Fauré, performed by well-known Chicago cabaret artists to jazz arrangements. Some twenty revues featuring Arnie's Brel translations have been staged around the country in such venues as New York City, Chicago, Houston, Boca Raton, Cincinnati, and Kalamazoo. The most recent Chicago production, Jacques Brel's Lonesome Losers of the Night, played to rave reviews and packed houses in Fall 2008 and Summer 2009. A member of the Dramatists Guild and the American Literary Translators Association, Arnie now offers Songs You Thought You Knew, a concert featuring his versions of songs by Brel, Gabriel Fauré, Edith Piaf, Kurt Weill, Charles Aznavour, and others. As an extra-special treat, Arnie will be accompanied by D. Neil Bremer, guitarist extraordinaire and Executive Director for the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. See more about Neil at http://www.reverbnation.com/dneilbremer.

Posted by bethlynn at 8:12 AM