

CD RELEASE PARTY: THE LONG WAY HOME

June 23, 2012

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I hate to miss a CD release party, especially if it is one by a family member, in this case my daughter singer/songwriter May Erlewine Bernard. Anyway, it was Friday and all the work I wanted to get done that day was done, so Margaret and I packed up the car and headed north to the Good Work Collective in Traverse City, Michigan, where May was to release her new album "The Long Way Home." It was an hour and a half drive on a bright sunny day, so that was painless.

And we did some food shopping at the legendary Oriyana Natural Foods Coop. I weighed out the Black Turtle Beans and some Garbanzos to tide us over until our bulk food order comes in. We try to buy everything in bulk, but not bulk enough to sit on the shelf and go bad. It takes a delicate touch and my wife Margaret has that. I used to buy too much, but now I just weigh out what Margaret tells me.

The evening before, my daughter Anne (who has been visiting for some days now with our newest granddaughter Emma) made up some dolmas (stuffed grape leaves) as only she can make them. These and some humus (made without garlic) and salad was one of the best dinners I have had in many months. I also got to play with Emma and she is just learning to sit up, sort of. She likes her grandpa and smiles at me whenever I appear, and I like that a lot.

Anyway we went to Traverse City where May and her husband Seth Bernard were to play a show at a very intimate venue, the Good Work Collective, the brainchild of entrepreneur Sam Porter. It was sold out and there was standing room only. Playing with May and Seth were Brennan Andes on bass, and Mike Shimmin on drums.

The show was great and Margaret and I sat right up front, where I took some photos, one of which is shown here. And May had with her the first copies of her new album "The Long Way Home," which she had recorded at our Heart Center Studios.

The surprise of the night for me was to find that May had dedicated one of the tunes to me, a tune that she knows I love a while lot. It is called "A Beautiful Mess," and is just other worldly in its beauty. One of the refrains in the song is "Find a little love along the way, die a little, every day." You have to hear it. It should be available now online or somewhere soon. You can get it here:

<http://earthworkmusic.com/site/viewItem?i=90>

Anyway, I was touched. The long and the short of the evening was we had fun and didn't make

it home until 1:30 in the morning. 'Tis the concert season and my favorite music is that by Seth and May.