SPARKS A-FLYIN' FALL 2024 issue #14 Sept. 28, 2024

Welcome to the new issue of our quarterly newsletter – my biggest recent music news is:

- I was the featured guest musician at (El Paso) Temple Mount Sinai's early evening service on July 19, getting to sing and play my songs "Healing Song" and "Give Thanks" as well as provide guitar accompaniment for the music director on six other pieces: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dQY4rHW5HE

- Radio airplay this past summer ranged from local (e.g., "One-Way Train" on Dan Alloway's June 8 "Folk Fury" show on KTEP-FM) to international (bits of "Two Jews, Three Opinions" in a summer interview on BBC Radio Wales): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caN2qf5hg28. On another note, *The Fox and the Cookie*, the Opera UTEP production I was the opening act for by playing "Kind", was selected as a national finalist in the Opera performance/collegiate division of The American Prize. While my contribution won't make or break the result, it was such an honor and joy to be part of those amazing evenings and I really hope it wins!

- my *Sparks* song "Rowboat" (with its message of interdependence and environmentalism) opened an interdisciplinary session at a conference for World Water Week held in mid-March at The University of Texas at El Paso: https://larrylesser.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/24_water_week_agenda_english.pdf#page=3

Since the last newsletter, there have been some transitions: the retirement of the first radio host (Louie Saenz) to interview me about the album, the closing of the studio (Brainville Studio) where the album was recorded, and the departure of my album's violinist (Amalia Zeitlin) for Israel on a year-long Dorot Fellowship. But I'm confident the new year will bring new opportunities and collaborations and I look forward to them!

I'm so grateful for this journey and your interest in it – happy fall!

Larry
https://larrylesser.com/sparks/

p.s. At https://larrylesser.com/sparks-newsletter/ are past issues of this quarterly newsletter in case you missed one or want to share with a friend.