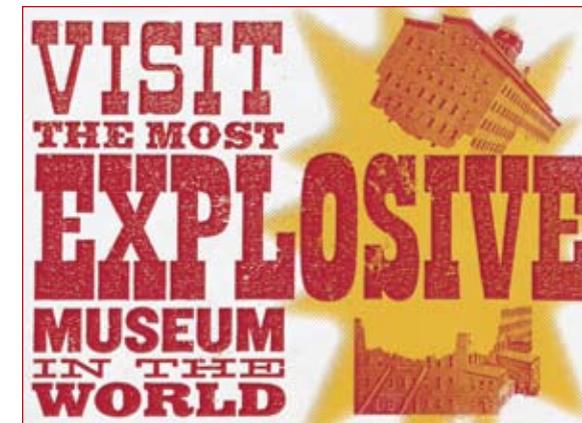


# A Music Explosion



Mill City Museum brings the Minneapolis milling heyday back to brilliant life. Out behind the museum, new history is made each summer as local musicians perform in the stunning, open-air setting of the Mill Ruins Courtyard. Called the Mill City Live series, the twice-monthly, family-friendly, Thursday-night music series draws a full range of ages and includes a variety of musical styles.

The Current is proud to once again sponsor Mill City Live. The series begins June 7 with The Brass Kings. Playing lively roots music, The Brass Kings are Steve Kaul on guitar, Mikkel Beckmen on washboard and fridge door, and Brad Ptacek on washtub bass. Their self-titled CD was named one of the top ten local CDs of 2006 by the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, by the Brainerd *Dispatch* and by Minnesota Public Radio's *Morning Show* co-host Dale Connelly. **LT**

#### Mill City Live Schedule:

**THURSDAYS: June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2, August 16, September 6, September 20. 6 – 8 p.m. at Mill City Museum. Food and drink available for purchase from D'Amico Catering.**

More information available at [www.millcitymuseum.org](http://www.millcitymuseum.org)

school locked in our bedrooms with guitars and Eric Clapton records," she says. "We were cheerleaders. Linda was on the diving team."

But Zuzu's Petals put the work in and released their first album, *When No One's Looking*, in 1992. A second album, *The Music of Your Life*, came out two years later. Zuzu's Petals helped prove girls can rock. The band's creativity manifested itself in everything from chunky, wet rockers like "Don't Bother" to the jazz-riffing "Dork Magnet" to additive melodies like "Come True." And Zuzu's Petals' song lyrics are well crafted, thoughtful and sincere.

Lindeen possessed a penchant for prose, too, but her work was enjoyed only by a privileged group. "I've always had a million pen pals," she says, "so I was always writing letters to people." And despite the fun she was having on tour with Zuzu's Petals, Lindeen felt something was missing. "I wanted to be a parent," she says. "Get off the road and do a long project, start to finish." The writing bug was powerful, and touring only meant that Lindeen was meeting more and more pen pals. One of her regular longtime correspondents was impressed by her letters. "You're a writer," he encouraged. "You should write."

Lindeen decided to pursue her dreams—all of them. She eventually got married to the encouraging pen pal and they have a family together. She completed an MFA in creative writing. And now she's a published author. Her experiences as a rocker-turned-mom are detailed in her book, *Petal Pusher*, which was released on May 8. The book will be the focus of The Current Fakebook on Saturday, June 16, at the Fitzgerald Theater.

Lindeen's life as a professional writer and family person is a far cry from the rigors of the rock-and-roll tour. School events, Pilates class and the everyday demands of home ownership take up time that's not spent writing or mentoring other writers. Lindeen doesn't really play guitar much anymore, and her "gigs" are mostly limited to singing an occasional number with a friend's band at her son's school fundraiser.

Fakebook will bring Lindeen back to center stage. She'll talk about her book with Mary Lucia and even play some music when Zuzu's Petals reunite for the evening. Lindeen's husband, Paul Westerberg, will play a song or two. Other musical friends Lindeen has invited include John Munson, Steve Wynn and Lori Barbero. "And I'm still waiting for a couple confirmations," she says, "so there might be some last-minute surprises."

To say she's looking forward to Fakebook might be an understatement. "Anytime I leave the house I expect it to be fun because I don't get out much," Lindeen says. "So I've sort of tailored the evening for the most fun I can possibly have." **LT**

## Getting Her Wings

Writing career takes off for former Zuzu's Petals frontwoman

“It was a really exciting time in music,” Laurie Lindeen says, thinking back to the mid-80s and early 90s. “Small clubs were having bands in from all over.

Whole new scenes were cropping up in every college town and metro area.”

It was in that environment that Lindeen and her friends Linda Pitmon and Coleen Elwood formed the rock band Zuzu's Petals. Playing in a band seemed appealing and plausible, even though Zuzu's Petals didn't have a lot of experience. “And being a crappy student,” Lindeen admits, “it looked like the best career move.”

It was daring, especially with the odds stacked against them. “It's such a male-dominated industry,” Lindeen says of the music biz. Plus, she points out that girls were socialized to take piano lessons rather than consider rock-and-roll. “We didn't spend high

The Current Fakebook takes place Saturday, June 16, at 8 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater. Go to [mpr.org/events](http://mpr.org/events) for ticket information.

