

hobson's choice

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Toronto-based indie chamber folk quartet, Hobson's Choice makes its East Coast debut this June 2010. Falling somewhere between early Bruce Cockburn and Chick Corea's Return to Forever Band, this two-year old project is beginning to get its sea legs. Since debut and sophomore releases in 2009 (*Treelines* and *the Farm EP*), Hobson's Choice has been putting down roots in Toronto's jazz and indie scenes. They quickly garnered respect for their unique instrumentation, inventive orchestration, and fresh compositional style. After a busy winter of musical hibernation, they are gearing up for shows in Halifax, Moncton, St. John, and the Annapolis Valley, as well as Montreal, Ottawa, and Peterborough.

Throughout the tour, their new digital EP will be available for [download](#) by donation. Proceeds from all record sales during the tour will go to [Bayou Rebirth](#), a grassroots organization that preserves and restores communities in Southeast Louisiana through hands-on wetlands restoration and stewardship projects. Hobson's Choice supports the work of folks like these who are empowering citizens to create and sustain vital communities in the face of disasters like the BP oil spill.

Bio

Hobson's Choice is a Toronto-based indie chamber folk quartet, comprised of vibraphone, trumpet, voice, and acoustic guitar. The group's music is accessible yet hard to categorize, falling somewhere between jazz, folk, instrumental chamber music, and singer-songwriter. Brandishing a distinctive instrumentation and a broad notion of song form, Hobson's Choice is a collaborative project that features compositions by all four members. The four instruments work as equal parts of the band, each providing melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and improvisation at one time or another in the course of a performance. Compositions range from catchy songs with lyrics to instrumental pieces that explore the sonic space of each instrument.

Members of Hobson's Choice are all grads of Toronto jazz programs and are busy as leaders and side-people with other projects. Vibraphonist Michael Davidson is a member of Elvis Bossa Nova, recently interviewed by Jian Gomeshi on Q, and can be heard on albums by Elizabeth Shepherd and Juno award-winning The Good Lovelies; vocalist Felicity Williams sings with Thom Gill (Owen Pallett) and with Alex Lukashevsky and Daniella Gesundheit (Snowblink); Trumpeter Rebecca Hennessy plays regularly with Dave Clark (Rheostatics) and Viva Mexico Mariachi band, and can be seen on Coco Love Alcorn's *Revolution* video; Felicity and Rebecca can be heard on upcoming Broken Social Scene concert on Bravo; Guitarist Harley Card is an active bandleader and side person in Toronto's jazz community.

Hobson's Choice has been playing shows and making albums for two years. They have been attracting attention lately for their fresh sound, especially as featured on two new videos by local videographer Mitch Fillion (Southern Souls). In April 2010 they recorded 4 new tracks, which are available exclusively as digital downloads by donation. Since the band's beginning, they have released two albums, *Treelines* and *the Farm EP*. *Treelines* was recorded by Dale Morningstar at the Gas Station on Toronto Centre Island, and *the Farm EP* was made over the course of two weeks at a farm near Alliston, ON. They play shows regularly in Toronto, often to standing room only crowds at the Tranzac. They mesmerized audiences at the Ontario Council of Folk Festivals in 2009. After focusing on smaller, local audiences in Ontario and Quebec, this June they will be making their East Coast debut.