



Interviewed: Roland Wilk
Oral History Clip Title: Music in the Bush
Theme: Ties to Southern Africa
Interviewer: Naomi Raichyk
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(Interviewer)
Have you maintained any connections at all to South Africa?

(Roland)
We go back every year. We have a share in a large [sic] in a private game reserve. At Welgevonden so we've got two weeks a year that we can spend there.

(Interviewer)
Can you say that name again?

(Roland)
The name? Welgevonden.

(Interviewer)
Where is that?

(Roland)
You should try saying that.

(Interviewer)
Yeah.

(Roland)
Yes. It means well-founded.

(Interviewer)
Oh.

(Roland)
It's Dutch. It's a Dutch word. And it's northwest of Johannesburg—about three hundred kilometres northwest. It's a non-malaria area. Because of its elevation so [sic] it's a temperate climate. They've all the game there—all the big five. All the antelope, all the small things, everything there. And we spend two weeks a year there and we can accommodate ten people including ourselves. So we invite friends and family to share it with us. Last year we had a whole contingent from [sic] a couple came from Israel. Meredith's cousin's nephew came from England. We had a couple from here coming. Sometimes we'd

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make it into a music event. We'd get musicians and then we'd make music in the bush. Half of it we do with family. Half of it we do with music. So this year we've got two musicians coming from Toronto with us to South Africa.

(Interviewer)

Do you still have any friends or family living in South Africa?

(Roland)

Yes. In Johannesburg, in Cape Town, we've got cousins. First cousins, second cousins on both sides of the family. And we see them regularly. We go back. Good friends, the friends we've made in university. Some [sic] We've got a very good friend in Cape Town who we visit regularly. They come to our weddings when we have weddings. And we're still very close. And you don't make friends like that again. That's one thing you leave behind when you move countries. You can take everything else with you, but you don't take your early life friends, your young adult friends. These are people we met at university and they will remain friends forever.

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