



ERIN R. COKER—COKER@POSTSTAR.COM

Folk singer Dan Berggren plays 'Power from Above,' a song he wrote after being inspired by the Barton Mines wind project, at his home April 10 in Ballston Spa. The song is on both Berggren's new album and a two-song CD that promotes awareness of the wind-power project.

# Wind song

*Musician inspired by harnessing of breezes for power*

By ERIN DEMUTH  
[edemuth@poststar.com](mailto:edemuth@poststar.com)

Dan Berggren's not sure if music can inspire more than a morning commute or a weekend, clean-the-kitchen dance marathon, but changing the

world through music isn't necessarily what he's after anyway.

He does hope, though, that a song on his twelfth album, "Fresh Territory," will at least stimulate the brain.

"I think my job, and the job of a song, is not to convince people one way or the other, but to open something up — to get people to think about it and explore it," said Berggren, a Ballston Spa folk singer who grew up in the Adirondack Mountains.

The "it" he's talking about is

wind energy, and the song from his soon-to-be-released album, is "Power from Above."

The song, which calls on people to embrace wind and rethink oil, came to life after Berggren read a book and took a tour.

"The inspiration that brought this song to the surface was like a one-two punch of sun and rain," Berggren explained. "The first punch came when I had the chance to visit the proposed site of the Barton Mines wind project last spring."

While standing there on the back side of Gore Mountain, gazing at the suggested site for 10 wind turbines, the 30-year veteran of the folk music industry was struck by great potential.

"I saw an industrial zone, with a system of roads and utilities," Berggren said. "I saw an opportunity for a small company and a small community to realize a cleaner, safer way to produce electricity — to

Please see **SONG**, Page B9

# Song inspired by wind-power project

## ◆ SONG

*Continued from Page B1*

demonstrate what can be done with renewable energy.”

Part two of the one-two musical punch came from author John Slade and his upcoming novel, “Adirondack Green.”

“It’s a wonderful story about a little Adirondack town where people decide to have wind power support their town,” Berggren said.

“They have a ski area,” he added, “so it sounds a little like North Creek.”

Drawing on the way this book and the Barton Mines tour affected him, Berggren wrote this chorus:

“Just a little more power from above,  
Just a little more faith,  
respect and love  
For this old earth, our only home.  
It may take strength to say no  
to that power from below,  
But there’s salvation in the  
power from above.”

While this refrain is a proclamation in support of wind, the artist stressed that it’s not meant to be more than that.

“My song has nothing to do with fighting or arguing with anyone,” he explained. “It has to do with seeing what we can do about wind power.”

For at least one listener, and friend, this message was received loud and clear.

Woody Widlund, a North River resident who lives between Barton Mines and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness, is using “Power from Above” as part of a two-song CD he’s creating and distributing to raise awareness of the local wind project.

The CD, called “Start Global Cooling,” features “Power from

### “Power from Above”

Music and lyrics copyright 2006 by Dan Berggren

Sinners, are you ready for a little redemption;  
To receive forgiveness for what we’ve done?  
The time has come to break bad habits.  
It’s time to turn to the wind and sun.

Chorus:

Just a little more power from above,  
Just a little more faith, respect and love  
For this old earth, our only home.  
It may take strength to say no to that power from below,  
But there’s salvation in the power from above.

There’s a better way than barrels of oil,  
There’s a better way than lumps of coal,  
If we use our heads and work together.  
Renewable power, that’s our goal.

[chorus]  
[bridge]

What will we do for a better world?  
Get on our knees to hope and pray?  
Well, that’s not enough unless we change.  
The judgement day is every day.

Wars have been fought over who owns what.  
Lives have been lost and fortunes won.  
But you and I will someday win,  
’Cause no one owns the wind or sun.

[chorus]

*To hear this song, visit [www.poststar.com](http://www.poststar.com).*

Above” and another of Berggren’s songs, “Fix It or Stop Complaining.”

One section of “Fix It or Stop Complaining,” which was Berggren’s father’s motto, goes, “There’s too much fat, not enough meat. There’s more talk than listening. When a fool’s in charge, who put him there? Fix

it or stop complaining.”

To Widlund, this seemed exceedingly appropriate for all those who are annoyed by the state of energy but are seemingly unwilling to step up and do anything.

“In my mind, it expands the argument — moves it away from wind towers in North

Creek to a larger context,” he said. “If we raise consciousness, we’re succeeding.”

While it may take time and effort and patience, Widlund doesn’t doubt that music can go beyond raising awareness. In fact, he’s sure it can, because in his lifetime, he’s seen another singer do it with great success.

“I think Pete Seeger is a wonderful example of what can happen,” Widlund said.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Seeger started calling attention to the pollution in the Hudson River, Widlund explained.

On a ship called the Clearwater, Seeger gave concerts along the river banks, and he eventually turned the vessel into a classroom where children learned about the river.

“Seeger had a tremendous impact on the Hudson River,” Widlund said.

Another friend of Berggren’s is also confident in the singer’s potential to make a lasting contribution.

“Dan is a throwback to the old role of the folk singer from the days of the civil rights movement,” said Bill McKibben, environmental writer and author of “The End of Nature.”

“With his wind power song, he’s articulating things that need to be said right now,” McKibben said. “If we ever get wind turbines on the back side of Gore, he’ll be one of the voices responsible.”

Berggren is more modest in his assessment of the power of his music, and music in general — though he, too, mentioned Seeger.

“I don’t think musicians have direct influence, but music, like art, creates a culture,” he said. “That culture can help us move in one direction or another.”