

Alberta House – Biographies of Performers

Alanna Clark:

Alanna is a passionate, driven young Calgary artist with all the attributes needed for a long and successful music career. Her uniquely captivating vocal style exudes a clear, smooth warmth that draws the listener into her original songs. A multi-instrumentalist, Alanna has a fun, engaging stage presence very much enjoyed by her audiences.

Alyssa McQuade:

Alyssa is a 19 year old singer songwriter from Lethbridge Alberta. She has been singing since age 11 but it was when she picked up a guitar at age 14 that she realized she was born to be a songwriter. She quickly learned that when you can accompany yourself, you can make things more interesting; make other people's tales your own. Her songs are her stories, and her version of other people's stories. She crafts her lyrics to reflect the beauty in life but is especially gifted at revealing the hidden beauty lurking behind the bitter sweet lessons and experiences. Her one true love is, and always will be her Taylor guitar and although Alyssa loves every kind of music, her heart truly belongs to country.

Brent Nelson:

Hailing from Medicine Hat, 18 year old Brent Neilson is a genuine songwriter who's authenticity magnetizes his audience. His songs are real, soulful and well crafted stories of his observations of life. Currently touring Canada, Brent is gaining fans at every venue he plays.

Calum Graham:

At 16, this Pincher Creek resident is gaining the attention of industry professionals as someone who could be one of the great guitar prodigies of our time. Most recently, Calum won first place and \$4000. at the Calgary Stampede Talent Search. Humble to the core yet gifted to the max, this young talent was simply born to play the guitar.

Carly Henry:

At a early age, Carly's musical interest began to peak, through singing with the local choir. Soon to follow, she became an accomplished pianist, and has ensued the art of accompanying herself on guitar to enthrall audiences of all ages. Being just 16, Carly has still managed to keep her schooling as a priority, having attained first class honors consecutively throughout junior high school, however that is not hindering her passion and desire to excel and make her mark within the country music industry. Having been the 2007 recipient of the Calgary Stampede Talent Search, Don Weldon Award, sparked Carly's creative desire for songwriting , enabling her to add another attribution to her career. With that being said, Carly has completed her 5 song demo CD with one single being co-written with Mark Lorenz. Carly has performed regularly for the past 3 years, from the singing of national anthems, to sharing the stage with Canadian artists such as, Johnny Reid and Emerson Drive, making her capability to entertain unquestionable.

Connor Harvey-Derbyshire and Jake Simard:

The funk-rock acoustic duo of Connor Harvey-Derbyshire and Jake Simard emerged in 2006 on a dark and stormy night in downtown Calgary. Before Flight of the Conchords made landfall in North America, these two yucksters were crooning and improvising their original side-splitting melodies (-- and a few down to earth ballads) with an 'up right' Bass and a 'down low' guitar to audiences throughout Calgary. This year, the duo was selected as part of the Transcanada Alberta Music Series Young Songwriter's Intensive at the Epcor Centre. Both have spent summer's at Flea's (Red Hot Chili Peppers) Silverlake Conservatory where they are influenced by Southern California's Latino grooves.

This past summer the fellas played shows ranging from a mini-tour of Alberta with Kids Cancer Care's Tour for Kids, to the East Village Block Party, to the Gap - Born to Play event, held across North America in over 700 locations.

James Slater:

James Slater was born in Derbyshire, England and immigrated to Calgary in 2001. He got his start performing as a lead singer in a Rolling Stones cover band at age 16 and has continued to perform as a solo artist with his acoustic guitar ever since. He draws his influence from such artists as Dylan, Cohen, Ron Sexsmith and Iron and Wine. A true storyteller by nature, James paints wordscapes with his lyrics backed up by original melodies.

Joe Nolan:

After being awarded the Galaxie Rising Star Award at the 2008 Edmonton Folk Festival, Joe returned for an encore performance in 2009. His performance so impressed the festival organizers, he was invited to share the finale spotlight with Lynn Miles on Mainstage. His brand new release "Bring Me A Candle" is a work of art that is destined to carve out a place for Joe as one of the great songwriters of our time.

Julianna Hindemith:

Haunting vocals, thoughtful lyrics and poetic overtones flow over the solid rhythm guitar playing of Julianna Hindemith. Inspired by the likes of Townes van Zandt, Ryan Adams and many more, Julianna is already turning heads in the music business. The 2009 Toast n' Jam music festival winner has played prestigious venues such as Virgin Festival, and fans as well as critics expect many more big events to come. To see and hear Julianna live is an experience unlike any other. Somber but personal songs make a connection as Hindemith wears her heart on her sleeve for every performance. With a command of the stage unlike other artists her age, Julianna takes you on an emotional rollercoaster through her set. Nearing tears as you feel for the characters in a song, Julianna can pick you back up to laughter with her quirky chatter. At 17 years old, her journey into music is just beginning, but Julianna is delivering performances like a seasoned professional.

Lindsay Ell:

No stranger to the stage, this 19 year old Calgarian has been performing since she can remember and honing her guitar chops at a breakneck speed. Upon hearing her demo, Randy Bachman took Lindsay under his wing as a protégé and produced her first CD. Lindsay recently toured extensively with Buddy Guy and her newest release "Alone" is a masterpiece that showcases her as an accomplished songwriter and guitarist.

Lucas Chaisson:

Lucas is a 15 year old from Cochrane, Alberta. Both as a writer and performer, Lucas exudes a maturity far beyond his young years. His soulful original songs and imaginative arrangements make a strong emotional connection with his audience. Described as roots, rhythm and blues, he draws comparisons to the likes of John Mayer, Martin Sexton and Ron Sexsmith.

Sarah Clark:

15 year old Sarah Clarks musical style is contemporary/pop. Her songs explore the experiences and emotional issues that happen to her or people around her. In early 2008 at the age of 14, Sarah released her second major collection of original compositions on a CD entitled "Unforgettable." She sings with a pure and angelic voice which moves audiences with her original songs that demonstrate depth far beyond her years, couple this with beautiful original piano compositions, and you have the amazing young performer that is Sarah Clark. Sarah loves to perform and audiences are captivated by her musical abilities and amazed at her maturity and relaxed stage presence.

Stephanie Bosch:

Described as a "pint sized powerhouse" this 20 year old resident of Devon, Alberta has a presence that is irresistibly real. She recently debuted at The Edmonton Folk Music Festival and surprised and delighted audiences with her original songs and unique vocal styling. Her brand new CD "Departures" is enjoying regular airplay on CKUA Radio and garnering rave reviews from the announce staff.

Susie Forsyth:

Susie Forsyth has cool socks . . . one of a kind but on both feet. She's been songwriting since she was 10, when she swapped crayons and the walls around her house for a pen and paper. With influences as diverse as Automatic Loveletter and Pink Floyd, the lovely Ms. Forsyth combines delicate vocals, no-nonsense lyrics, and slammin' acoustic guitar in 'these boots are made for walking' live performances. This past year, Susie was onstage in Calgary at the Roger's Collective Slam, the Collective on Sundays, the Sled Island Young Bud's stage and, at the 2009 Stampede Talent Search.