

A Night of Stories and Song

By Tara McInnis



Photo by Bruce Dienes

Your average musical performance usually involves the artist playing about twelve songs, perhaps with brief introductions to each in between. While this is a good way to decide if you like the artist and their music, it is easy to wonder exactly what was going through their head when they wrote what you are listening to.

Songwriters' circles, where a group of songwriters/musicians incorporate performing their work, one after the other, with an explanation of their lyrics, are a great way to get to know an artist. On Friday, April 9th at the Bauer Theatre, Jenny MacDonald is hosting A Night of Stories and Song, a songwriters' circle where she will be accompanied by The Hupman Brothers, Mike Aube, and Betsy MacDonald.

Jenny MacDonald

When Jenny picks up her guitar, it's incredible to discover that her husky voice and thoughtful lyrics can come from such a tiny frame. Based in Halifax, Jenny is graduating from NSCC's Music Arts and Business program this May, and then recording her second album. Since releasing her debut album, *Jenny Kissed Me*, Jenny has performed with Coco Love Alcorn, Christina Martin, Ian Sherwood and Charlie A'Court. She has made a name for herself amongst talented Nova Scotian musicians with her ability to swing between rock, jazz and the blues, and always writing soulful and quirky lyrics.

The Hupman Brothers

Hailing from Wolfville, Ryan and Scott Hupman, plus their guitars are The Hupman Brothers. The duo performs regularly around Nova Scotia, including two recent performances at the East Coast Music Awards. Their first self-titled album, released in 2007, is comprised of bluesy, acoustic songs filled with expressions of the love, pain and amazement everyone experiences. The brothers' latest album, *Countin' Quarters*, has a more electric sound and was nominated for Blues Album of the Year by Music Nova Scotia and at the ECMAs.

Mike Aube

Mike Aube, who was briefly a kinesiology instructor at Acadia, decided to pursue a music career following a quarter-life crisis. He began as a part of the cover band, Rust Bucket, and in 2006 he released his first album called *Aberdeen Street*. Quirky and unique lyrics about UFO abductions and religious bobbleheads grace this album, and Aube's second album, *Cluster Folk*, follows this theme. Just as out of the ordinary as his first release, his music is funky with a bluegrass feel, and his vocals are smoky yet smooth.

Betsy MacDonald

A self-proclaimed poet from Antigonish, Betsy mixes alternative country with folk melodies and the results have allowed her to make her mark on the east coast music scene. Her performances are as sincere as her lyrics, and she always has touching stories to share. Betsy is the lead vocalist in the Antigonish-based band Sister Kate, but on April 9th, she'll be joining the other performers as a solo act.

If you have time during exam season and want to experience a different, more intimate kind of show, head to the beloved Bauer Theatre at 8:00. Cost for students is twelve dollars.