

Press Release

It's been almost exactly one year since Cori Brewster released *Buffalo Street*, her loving tribute to the history of Banff, and next month, she celebrates the anniversary with a reprise tour of the province. She will also debut the project in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Buffalo Street has earned considerable acclaim for the veteran roots artist, with some critics and broadcasters suggesting she found her true calling with the colourful collection of tales. It was named one of the Fab Five albums of 2009 by CKUA's David Ward and earned a 4 ½ out of 5 star rating from the UK's *Maverick* magazine. CFMU's Jim Marino called it "(so far) the best of 09. ... a winner from beginning to end." *Buffalo Street* was the #1 Canadian album at US folk radio last July, while the song "Trono" was the top Canadian song. The song "My Familiar Sky," meanwhile, won third place in the Calgary Folk Festival Songwriting Contest Songs of Alberta category. *Herizons* wrote of Brewster, "Give this woman an Order of Canada for telling us about what Banff was before it became just another tourist Mecca"

Most of the songs on *Buffalo Street* are like snapshots of characters that inhabited Banff's rough and tumble pioneer past. "William Twin" is an ode to the Stoney/Nakoda man who befriended the Brewsters in the 1800s and helped them launch their guiding and outfitting business. "My Familiar Sky" tells the story of Peter Whyte, an Alberta outdoorsman who entered a secret relationship with Boston debutante Catherine Robb and lured her to Banff with a series of remarkable letters scrawled on tissue paper. "Diamond Hitch," one of two songs co-written with John Wort Hannam, looks at early mountain exploration from the perspective of the Rocky Mountain Sherpas, while "Take Me Back to Ireland" is a toast to Brewster's own great great great grandfather, who left Ireland for Kingston in the 1800s. Bills multi-instrumentalist Adrian Dolan enhances the track with some lovely Irish-style fiddle. Other musical guests on the CD include Adam Dobres of Outlaw Social on guitar, Tim Tweedale of Sarah MacDougall's band on resonator guitar and Daniel Lapp on trumpet. Throughout the album, production by Dolan and ex David Francey accompanist Dave Clarke keeps the sound as crisp and clean as the air in the mountains Brewster is singing about.

Brewster first began singing while on trail rides at the family business in Banff. She moved to Winnipeg in the mid-80s to launch her music career, after first earning a degree in physical education from the University of Alberta. She released a first EP of country songs in 1989, and was immediately embraced by the country scene. She appeared on the *Tommy Hunter Show* and at the Calgary Stampede, had videos in high rotation on CMT, earned an official showcase at SXSW, and toured Germany. Three more albums followed: 1994's *One More Mountain*, 1998's *Stones*, and 2007's *Large Bird Leaving*. In between the releases of *Stones* and *Bird*, Brewster's partner gave birth to their son, River, now 11, and the couple moved back to the Rockies where Brewster pursued her other interest—sports—by managing a golf course.

Once back in the Bow Valley, and with a child of her own to continue the family line, Brewster began to reconnect with her family history, which she had earlier tried to declare independence from. The idea of writing and recording a historical album appealed to her, not just as a gift to her own child, but as a way of revitalizing Banff's pioneer past, which is often forgotten in its current incarnation as a ski resort and tourist destination. Friends encouraged her, Brewster began searching through the Whyte Museum for inspiration, and a grant from the Canada Council sealed the deal.

One year after its release, the praise heaped on *Buffalo Street* demonstrates just how much those beyond Brewster's circle appreciate the project too. Next month, fans will have another opportunity to see Brewster sing the songs live.

REVIEWS OF BUFFALO STREET

Sing out Magazine-Rich Warren

"this is a CD where you just can't touch the pause or stop button. It carries you forward with its engrossing narrative and captivating acoustic production...its like one of those ultra-premium chocolates you carve to savor".

Edmonton Journal-Roger Levesque

"Buffalo Street is a fascinating set of historical portraits translated into song, by this gifted singer-songwriter...personalized with atmosphere, imagery and entertaining details".

CKUA-Bob Chelmick (Road Home)

"When I heard 'Buffalo Street', I just felt like giving you the biggest hug for creating such a gorgeous collection of stories...you have found the fulfillment of your musical calling in these kind of moving character sketches... I love a good story, a great melody, and an artist who brings a passion to her work - and lets it live in her songs. That's why I feel so grateful for 'Buffalo Street'".

CFMU-Jim Marino

"I will play all of it...I think it is (so far) the best of 09...what a gem, a winner from beginning to end".

See Magazine-Curtis Wright

"With this release, Brewster joins a distinguished group of Albertan vocalists — people like the legendary Ian Tyson and that hurtin' Albertan, Corb Lund — who share her affinity for storytelling and times gone by".

Herizon Magazine-Cindy Filipenko

"Cori Brewster writes songs that capture the essence of a place better than most...Brewster has handily managed to turn these narratives into engaging folk songs. The musicianship on Buffalo Street is top notch..., Buffalo Street is an important one, as it represents folk music in the truest sense, recording history through lyric and melody, so that a culture's important moments are not lost. Give this woman an Order of Canada for telling us about what Banff was before it became just another tourist Mecca".

Maverick Magazine-Alan Cackett **1/2** *“As a veteran and leading exponent of Canada’s storied folk heritage, Brewster’s mastery of the music’s many styles is unquestioned”*

Accomplished Canadian folk-country singer, Cori Brewster, returns with her fourth album, a wonderful collection of (mainly) self-penned songs inspired by her family and characters associated with them over the past hundred years or so in Banff. With an ear for a great melody and the storyteller’s insight for spinning a compelling yarn, Brewster puts both and more, on display. With vocal inflections that sound clear-as-mountain-stream authentic, Brewster’s songs of love’s travails and the struggle to find meaning in hard times, really strike home on the tunes. Throughout Brewster’s passionate vocals and expressive lyrics are true and affecting. Highly recommended.