

PREVIEW



Handout

Canadian roots artist Cori Brewster is performing in Regina on Friday at a private residence, a popular trend these days for folk music.

BREWSTER'S Buffalo Street

By JOE COUTURE
Leader-Post

Coming to a home near you

Canadian roots artist Cori Brewster is performing in Regina tomorrow, but she is not playing at any of the usual venues in the city — instead, the public is invited to come out to a house concert.

"Having music in people's homes is certainly not a new phenomenon," Brewster said, when asked to explain what house concerts are all about. "It's been going on for centuries. But it seems to be a relatively new phenomenon in Canada. Really, what it amounts to is people — wanting to host these events — (who) love music and love inviting artists into their homes, if you can imagine that."

There are several house concerts among the stops on Brewster's current tour, which is to support her project *Buffalo Street*. The "scene album" tells the stories of historical characters of the Canadian Rockies, particularly Banff, where Brewster was born. Her family has a long history of living in the Banff area and Brewster wanted to tell stories of characters that developed

Banff in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"Banff is certainly a tourist destination that probably 99 per cent of Canadians have heard about," she said. "But Banff is certainly a lot more than a tourist town. It does have deep and rich cultural and historic stories. You just have to spend a bit more time searching for those. I think there's lots of value to music that enriches our identity as Canadians. That's what I tried to do with this project."

Brewster will share the stories from *Buffalo Street* during her house concert in Regina. The audience for a house concert

Cori Brewster
Private home concert in Regina
Friday

typically is between 20 and 50 people, she said.

"Usually, it's by invitation only," she said. "Some (hosts) —

because (house concerts) are becoming well known — are putting them out to the public, which is great for us."

In Regina, Brewster's concert will be open to the public — anyone interested in attending is invited to call Jan at 757-9292 to find out the details about the event.

For some artists for whom it would not be financially feasible to tour otherwise, house concerts offer an opportunity to get out on the road, Brewster said. There are

organizations that help artists connect with house-concert-host circuits across the country, she said, noting some artists will not even know the homeowners hosting their shows.

But in Regina, Brewster does know the hosts. She is hoping that between word-of-mouth and promotion on a local community radio station, there will be lots of guests.

"At any given moment, I think we can find 30 people that might be interested in listening to an artist," she said, noting house concerts are great for artists especially as they can be planned for "off nights" — in other words, it doesn't have to be on a Friday or Saturday night to draw the desired crowd.

The format works best for smaller acts — primarily solo ones, Brewster said, noting house concerts are "really intimate evenings, for sure."

"The audience is so close," she said. "You have to be prepared to be exposed and intimate with the audience. Usually, it's an incredibly great listening audience. That's always a wonderful experience for artists. Having a listening audience is great, especially for this album."

PREVIEW

Four years from Idol, Daughtry still can't believe his luck

By TOM MURRAY
for Canwest News Service

Daughtry
Saturday
Regina's Brandt Centre

It's been nearly four years since American Idol changed his life and Chris Daughtry still can't believe his luck.

After being booted in the semifinals of the reality television show in 2006, he could have returned to the world of struggling musicians. Daughtry may have the self-possession and belief in his own talent to think that he belongs in the world of arena rockers and million-sellers, but he's under no illusion about the process that got him there.

"It's luck," he admits. "There's no planning for this, no preparation, especially in this industry. We're fortunate to have done as well as we have, but we're also really lucky that the fans want us to succeed. We've managed to sell a million records, and it's all because of them."

Sounds like your standard news release quote carefully written to make the musician in question look humble and sincere, doesn't it? Well, in this case he's right. The Daughtry success story (both singer and band) is a populist one, more independent of radio and industry machinations than that of the usual batch of radio-rockers. American Idol viewers took an instant liking to the North Carolina-born singer-songwriter, and while his run ended much quicker than many people believed it

would, his popularity was unquestioned. Immediately after his versions of Bon Jovi and Live songs were released as singles, a hastily recorded album hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts at the end of that year.

Twenty worldwide hit singles (including the blockbuster "Home") later, and Daughtry is an assured superstar on the same level as his idols. Now he's hanging around with songwriters he used to cover back in his bar band days, taking his place in the MTV world of upper-echelon rockers.

He's still reflecting on his rapid rise to fame. "All the time, man, all the time. I just think, hey, these are guys I used to listen to and now they're buddies. It used to be that they were inspirations, and they still are, but now I can call them up on the phone whenever I want."

"They," in this case, include Chad Kroeger of Nickelback, Live's Ed Kowalczyk and Carl Bell of Fuel, new friends and clear influences on Daughtry's music, which fits in so well around these modern rock staples that it almost seems designed to be that way.

"Chad is an amazing songwriter," says Daughtry, who roped Kroeger into co-writing



Getty File photo

Singer Chris Daughtry performs in New York.

the song "No Surprise" for his last album, *Leave This Town*. "You can just learn so much from him. Being around guys like that has really helped with my songwriting. It's become so much more mature, and there's a storytelling that becomes more of what you do."

Daughtry's gratification at continuing success is genuine, his regular guy persona no pose. He's the dude at the bar who chose all of the right lottery numbers, and he knows it. That his music is more a reflection of his favourite bands than anything particularly original is neither

here nor there; it's what people want to hear.

The next question is what he chooses to do with the power he's gained as the rock star he always dreamed he'd be — continue down the same path or attempt to forge his own?

"You never know," he cautiously responds. "As a fan of music I like a lot of left-of-centre stuff, but I don't know if I want to alienate our fan base. I mean, I'd like to experiment more, but it's very important to me to keep the fans happy."

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