



CONCESSION 23

Concession 23 is an award-winning, acoustic string band from the Ottawa Valley featuring strong musicianship, tight harmonies, and lots of punch and drive. The band's strength is the musical teamwork between its members, their energetic playing style, and the relaxed relationship they establish with their audiences.

RECORDINGS

Concession 23 has two full-lengths recordings, *The Walls Around You* (2007) and *Wandering Steps* (2009).

The Walls Around You, their first full-length CD, presents twelve hard-driving, rhythm-based songs. Drawing from traditional-style writers and modern artists, the project also features four, top-notch original recordings: "Albert Johnson", "On the Mountain Side", "To Tell the Truth", and "Write this Down". Each song was carefully crafted to tell a particular kind of story. For example, "Albert Johnson" is the true story of the ultimate struggle to avoid being walled in. In 1932, a mysterious figure shot an RCMP officer in the Canadian arctic. He managed to evade capture by outrunning his pursuers for nearly 1½ months during the dead of winter in what became the most famous manhunt in Canadian history.

The Walls Around You was short listed for Best New Recording at the 2007 at the CCBA, one of eight nominations garnered by the band that year. They were nominated in nine categories for 2008. Selections from the recording are played at radio stations across the province and internationally.

Wandering Steps is a high-powered recording project in the tradition of first-generation bluegrass. The CD features a number of classic songs written by some of the pioneers of bluegrass music, such as Red Allen, and by important, early folk songwriting giants, such as Felice & Boudleaux Bryant, and Karl Davis & Harty Taylor – people who wrote for and inspired the Blue Sky Boys, the Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, Bob Dylan and others.

The original tracks on this recording showcase the songwriting talents of the band and reflect two distinctly divergent trends in early 20th century acoustic music.

The title track, "Wandering Steps," is a soulful tune that tells the ageless story of leaving home and features the gorgeous vocal style of CCBMA (Central Canadian Bluegrass Music Awards) Female Vocalist Sherry Philp.

"I Wasn't Born in Carolina," co-written by Kevin Golka and Nick Strachan, is a straight-ahead, up-tempo bluegrass song about living and loving north of the 49th parallel.

Concession 23 also appears on *North to Ontario* compilation projects.

AWARDS

Concession 23 has been a fixture at the Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards at the fabulous Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. They were named Most Promising New Band for 2006. Their first original recording, "On the Mountainside," which appears on the compilation project, *North to Ontario* CD (Athlone Studios and Sound), won Best Recording Project that same year.

More recently, Sherry Philp was named Female Vocalist of the Year Award (2007/2008/2009). Sherry is an engaging and soulful singer – the band is very proud of her accomplishments.

Since their inception, Concession 23 has garnered nominations in nearly every available category, including Composer, Male Vocalist, Best Band and Best Recording.

VENUES

Concession 23 has played a number of exciting venues across Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, including Cisco (Ottawa) BluesFest; the Evangeline Music Festival (PEI), New Richmond Bluegrass Festival (Eastern Québec); the Ottawa Folk Festival; National Arts Centre (Fourth Stage); the famous Black Sheep Inn; and the Casino du Lac-Leamy in Gatineau, Québec. Within Ontario, Concession 23 has been in increasingly high demand, playing at the biggest festivals in the province, including Tottenham BG Festival, Renfrew Valley BG Festival, River Valley BG Festival; Palmer Rapids Twin Music Festival, the Upper Canada Festival; Sand Road; and the Marmora Country Jamboree.

The band is beginning to explore even more opportunities beyond their home province, playing at festivals and events in Prince Edward Island, Gaspé, and the Eastern Townships of Québec.

THE BAND

Concession 23 is Jonathan Ferrabee (acoustic bass); Kevin Golka (mandolin, lead and harmony vocals); Sherry Philp (banjo, lead and harmony vocals) and Nick Strachan (guitar, lead and harmony vocals).

CONTACT

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