

# NEWBIES in scene

Fresh starts beget fresh CDs

Picking up and relocating is one of life's great uncertainties — you never know what kind of welcome you're going to get.

Well, unless you're from Saskatchewan or the Maritimes and you're moving to Calgary, where the number of fellow regional expats is almost greater than those Alberta-born and a warm welcome is all but assured.

For rock artist Scott MacLeod, who relocated here from P.E.I. almost four years ago, that welcome he received extended beyond the communities of former Maritimers and into the thriving population of local singer-songwriters.

"I found people were really nice and it was a really warm attitude — 'You're writing songs, so talk to this guy' or 'This guy plays this or this girl plays this, talk to them,'" MacLeod says of the group he was introduced to through the many open mic nights and jams throughout the city. "So I found it really warm and welcoming and everybody is really helpful."

You can see and hear how warmly embraced he's been by the list of musicians appearing on his self-titled debut full-length, which was produced by Craig Newnes of Pain & Sage.

"Through the past couple of years they've heard my songs and come to like them and meet of them said, 'When you do this just let me know and I'll help out,'" MacLeod says of the musicians, which also include members of Blood, Dimpson and The Gravel Road.

"So I called them on it," he says with a laugh.

And while those musicians add some flavour to the disc, most of the credit for its simple and affecting rustic charm is owed to MacLeod, whose influences tend towards artists such as John Fogerty, Waylon Jennings and Bob Seger, but whose sound and songwriting style is something warmer, hummer and more personal.

"The stuff that I write about is basic things that everybody goes through, from just different ways to look at life situations, heartbreak, where you come from to just the state of the world," MacLeod says. "I guess what it says about me is I just enjoy people and trying to learn, and trying to make any sort of sense of life experience — I'm just trying to be a storyteller."

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Mike Bell

## Music

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