

## Chuck Micallef - Introductions

The first musical memory I have took place around a campfire. My Dad had joined in the sing-a-long by playing his harmonica and everyone applauded. I feel my style of back porch picking embodies that moment.

My favourite musical tradition is firmly based in the style of a Troubadour hence my Singer/Songwriter direction. But Music is Music is Music to me and though I sing Country, Folk and Blues, I enjoy all styles of music that move me. Different types of Music enrich my daily life in different ways. I've been listening to Grunge and Punk lately, my Daughter and Son love it!

At the age of sixteen I attended my first concert. It was the appearance of my musical hero, John Prine at Massey Hall in Toronto. That experience set the stage for my Musical Journey.

Being from Toronto and a Singer/Songwriter, it is only natural that Gordon Lightfoot was a major influence on my musical style. I remember being considered to be too much like him in one judge's opinion when I appeared on the CBLT's "Look Out World Here We Come" Talent Search. She did temper the comment with "but maybe that's not a bad thing"

Although I was young and didn't understand the enormity of Bob Dylan's perspectives on Civil Rights and world policies during the 60's, his style, intelligence, and musical presence have always influenced me. I sang his "Blowing in The Wind" during my first public performance at my high school variety night. There must still be a cassette recording of that event kicking around somewhere.

With the exception of a few brief moments in my life, I have always been a workingman. Music and my jobs have always complimented one another. Music, as I see it, is my Vocation and work being the vehicle of paying my way.

The streets of downtown Toronto Canada was the springboard into a life that revolved around the Coffee Houses and Bars where performers of live acoustic music gathered. Everywhere inspired dreams of the golden roads that music would lead you along.

I followed, in most instances, without hesitation because it was all exciting and full of wonder. The memories of those days are still fresh in my mind. I have had the opportunity of meeting some incredible people and some not so incredible people but everyone in some way was connected to music. Mr. Prine's "Some Humans Ain't Human" on his current Grammy Award winning album "Fair and Square" perfectly depicts the latter group of people. Some famous, some not so famous but rich in so many other ways that fame was not of considerable value.

So I learned music, fortune and fame could be connected but not necessarily so. In the end, if you can play your music to two people or two thousand people, and they enjoy it, isn't it just the same?

***Chuck Micallef***