

KEVIN FOX

Two and half years after the release of **SONGS FOR CELLO & VOICE**, Halifax native is excited to be share his third album, **SET RIGHT**, with the world. A short hiatus from his own recording career led Fox to spending his time composing arrangements for the likes of **Justin Bieber** and **Kathleen Edwards**, recording with artists such as **Raine Maida** and **Jully Black**, and continuing to tour extensively as **Chantal Kreviazuk**'s go-to side-guy, as well as touring with a wide range of other musicians. And it didn't stop there! In addition to the talent he was lending to other artists, he has also been touring across the country in support of his sophomore record.

Kevin Fox's latest effort is certainly his most focused, cohesive collection of songs to date and firmly moves him into the popular genre. Where both **COME ALIVE** and **SONGS FOR CELLO & VOICE** were created around a particular style of instrumentation – the first being a lush, orchestral landscape, and the second being a stripped down single cello – **SET RIGHT** has been produced in a more organic manner that aims to serve the songwriting first, allowing the instrumentation to take on more of a supporting role. This is not to say that Kevin's signature instrument – the cello – doesn't continue to play a large role and even occasionally take centre stage. From songs like the melodic 'Inside' to the more pop driven title track 'Set Right', Kevin continues to demonstrate his unique approach to the use of cello in the pop song. Fans of Kevin's one-of-a-kind style of reinterpreting popular songs by other artists using only his cello, looping pedal and voice will not be disappointed – he has included two cover songs on the album: a haunting treatment of Joni Mitchell's 'River' as well as a breathtaking version of Paul Simon's 'Diamonds On The Souls Of Her Shoes'.

SET RIGHT is also Kevin's most collaborative album to date. This time he brought his band-mates Maury Lafoy (bass), Lyle Molzan (drums) and David Matheson (piano) into the studio to lend their individual talents and collective energy to the album, and the result is an enthusiastic album of catchy tunes. And while Kevin's confidence and ability as songwriter has clearly evolved – resulting in direct, seemingly effortless, accessible pop songs – this album also features lyrical collaborations, like the infectious 'Stay', written with friend and fellow songwriter, Fergus Hambleton of the Sattelites.

Although written and recorded in the deliriously short span of two months, **SET RIGHT** is truly the culmination of over twenty years of song writing and performing professionally on stages and in studios by this revered multi-instrumentalist, sought-after arranger/composer and recording artist, and Canada's side-man 'go to' guy. Awareness of Kevin's talents as a singer/songwriter in his own right spread like wildfire with the release of his debut album **COME ALIVE**, really ignited with **SONGS FOR CELLO & VOICE** and are about to explode with the release of **SET RIGHT**.

www.kevinfox.ca

Kevin Fox ~ Biography

If you have come in contact with Canadian music at all over the last number of years, chances are you have either seen or heard the work of **Kevin Fox**. Kevin's abilities as an instrumentalist, singer, composer/arranger, performer and songwriter have offered him the opportunity to work with numerous artists in a variety of capacities throughout the years.

In June, 2004 Kevin released his debut album **COME ALIVE**, a collection of eleven songs featuring the strength of Kevin's stunning voice as well as his abilities as a songwriter and orchestral arranger. The album's production embraces the songs' pop sensibilities within the world of classical orchestration and electronics. The result is a powerfully beautiful, lush sound that holds echoes of the past while standing out as fresh and innovative.

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Kevin quickly became absorbed with and excelled in the arts. By the time he attended McGill University in Montreal to study composition, Kevin had already written songs for eight years, composed orchestral pieces for four, toured with orchestras and choirs, started a band and performed his own songs and orchestral pieces on local stages.

After university, Kevin moved to Toronto where he picked up an electric guitar for the first time and auditioned to join a band led by MCA recording artist **Andrew Cash**. Thus began his career as a side musician. With his abilities to play numerous instruments including the cello, acoustic, electric, and bass guitar, as well as sing, Kevin has since worked in the studio and on stage with a variety of artists from **Sarah Harmer** to **Tom Cochrane** to **Celine Dion**. Kevin has spent much of the last year touring with award-winning Canadian artists **Chantal Kreviazuk** and **Raine Maida**.

Kevin's talents in composition have made him a highly respected orchestral arranger. Arranging is a means through which Kevin's abilities to intertwine his influences and enrich the beauty of a song is evident. It allows him to step beyond the singular voice of his cello and offer the same beauty and intensity with which he plays, through the voice of an ensemble. As a composer/arranger, Kevin has to date composed music for film as well as arrangements for such artists as **Damnait Doyle**, **Lennie Gallant**, **Shaye** and **Dolores O'Riordan** of **The Cranberries**.

Through co-writing and the recording of his songs by other artists his work has been featured on American television programming such as **Baywatch Hawaii** and **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**, and received radio airplay across Canada and the United States.

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Awareness of Kevin's talents as a singer/songwriter quickly spread with the release of **COME ALIVE**, and Kevin has established a continually growing fan base. In 2008 Kevin released his second album, **SONGS FOR CELLO & VOICE**, which further developed his unique fusion of classical instrumentation into original popular music, and which earned him much critical praise – "a beautiful record!" (CBC Radio 1); "remarkably evocative" (TORONTO STAR); "a stunning achievement" (WHOLENOTE).

WHAT THE CRITICS HAVE TO SAY:

“An original and accomplished songwriter and singer. Stylistically impossible to peg, he roams between acoustic folk pop and high-end cinematic art music, yet his lyrics – compelling observations about the pain of love and the acquisition of wisdom – are as sharp and focused as any seasoned poet’s, and his voice, an absolutely amazing instrument, soars like an angel.”

~ The Toronto Star

“His maturity as a musician is obvious and his songs are thematically accessible to everyone.”

~ The Newfoundland Herald

“Hot Ticket – a must-see show!” ~ NOW Magazine

“...beautiful, with a lush, sweeping sound and songs that recall Crowded House and other clever pop craftspeople.”

~ The Toronto Sun

“...a cellist and guitarist of rare talent.”

~ On The Beat

PRAISE FOR ‘SONGS FOR CELLO & VOICE’:

“A beautiful record.” ~ Jian Ghomeshi – CBC Radio 1

“...remarkably evocative...” ~ John Sakamoto – Toronto Star

“ A stunning achievement... This is a very refreshing disc.” ~ David Olds – The Wholenote

“Fox strips his lovely compositions down to voice and cello, which he skillfully adapts to each song---gracefully floating from playful to melancholy. It’s a brave man who dares cover Kate Bush’s “Army Dreamers,” and the risk pays off---Fox’s version is haunting, the strength of cello playing off the fragility of his voice.” ~ Sue Carter Flinn – The Coast

PRAISE FOR ‘SET RIGHT’:

The WholeNote Review – April 2012

Renaissance man **Kevin Fox** is at it again...SET RIGHT (is) more of a straight ahead pop offering than the previous solo effort “Songs for Cello and Voice” but has an intriguing edge. ...Joni Mitchell’s *River* which opens effectively with looped sounds reminiscent of a didgeridoo and cello pizzicato over which the haunting vocal soars and a lilting rendition of Paul Simon’s *Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes* with the cello sounding more like a fiddle. The originals are thoughtful, poetic and at times playful with some nice turns of phrase, interesting syntactical decisions and catchy melodies.

THE CHRONICLE HERALD - Halifax

Thu, Mar 24 - 4:54 AM

On his second CD cellist and vocalist Kevin Fox works with the trio of percussionist Lyle Molzan, bassist Maury Lafoy and David Matheson on piano for a set of glowing acoustic pop gems. The sound is moody and the melodies flow at a languid pace, but the sonorous tone is offset by Fox's optimism and flashes of humour.

The Annapolis Valley native's covers of Joni Mitchell's River and Paul Simon's Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes are brimming with feeling, basking in the fresh new light of Fox's playing and arrangements.

Confront Magazine

March 16, 2011

This one is surprisingly subtle and understated...Fox tailors his particular sound around nearly a dozen highly poetic and even romantic songs, perfect for relaxing to, or simply whiling away an hour or so.

"Soul Before Me" is a favourite, as is Fox's cover of Paul Simon's "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes". There's something earnest and tranquil about this album, which makes this one that much more worth listening to.

Cadence

February 28, 2011

The arrangements are pretty, the album is produced rather well, and a couple songs are very absorbing, most notably the soaring, yet remarkably subdued "River" and the witty lyricism of "Clichéd Remains."...a pleasant listen – it's catchy, the song-writing is sound, the arrangements are beautiful..

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