

GOOD WORD CREATIVE

PRESS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: New Lenox Resident Molly Rose Releases First CD, *Hidden Talents*

New Lenox-based singer songwriter Molly Rose said the release of her first jazz album, *Hidden Talents*, felt like a culmination of her various music experiences to date but also like an open door, the beginning of a next step in her artistic journey.

Hidden Talents released just one week before Rose's thirtieth birthday, achieving a personal goal she set to record an album by the time she was 30. She describes the collection of original songs as a celebration of jazz in all of its forms and genres.

"The (album) title is meant to reflect the concept of music emerging from the universe of sounds around us," Rose shared.

While the album planning began in the fall of 2015 and recording started in February 2016, the creative process started seven years earlier when Rose began writing music during her senior year at Wheaton College, or, more specifically, she began writing jazz songs.

"I compare it to an act of discovery," she explained. "It was a lot of experimenting, of collecting melodies and putting them together."

She also typically wrote the melody first. If a voice emerged from the song tune, she would ask herself, "What would the voice say?"

"The lyrics I wrote were meant to carry the melody, not the other way around, which is usually how it works," Rose shared. Three of the eight songs on the album feature her lyrics and vocals.

Rose also joked that she wrote beyond her skill level because she couldn't play her songs by herself. They involved a full ensemble of more than 15 musicians which she assembled from friends and colleagues she developed at college and in the years following graduation.

The very first recording session for the album was for the rhythm section--drums, bass, piano, and vibraphone with Rose on guitar.

"No three of us had played together before...But jazz musicians are spectacular. It's so much about listening to each other. When I listened to what we did that day, it was just amazing!" Rose said.

Her musical influences include Fiona Apple, Jamie Cullom, Miles Davis, Benny Goodman, and Kenny Burrell, along with Saint Vincent, an indie rocker with strong jazz leanings. Rose also identifies with jazz vocalists Chet Baker and Ella Fitzgerald.

“I love a lot of things about jazz, but what I love most are the chord colors and figuring out what will add a little extra depth and color to the music,” Rose explained.

“I’m excited to start playing more of my originals with my trio, and I’m still writing. So I’ve got some new ideas,” she added. These ideas get fleshed out in Rose’s trio gigs or at her Jazz Jams, a monthly event she hosts at Elwood Alehouse which is modeled after the jazz jam sessions she used to attend in the city.

“I wanted something that would be a stepping stone for people who might be intimidated (by city musicians) or who can’t drive to the city. I’m always asking what can we do to encourage live music? What can we do to encourage growth in ourselves? Plus, it’s just fun,” she said of the Jazz Jams.

Copies of the CD are available at Down Home Guitars in Frankfort, where Rose serves as the music school administrator, as well as through her website at mollyrosemusic.tumblr.com. Molly’s Jazz Jams are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Elwood Alehouse in Frankfort from 7-9PM. For more information, contact Molly Rose at molly@downhomeguitars.com.