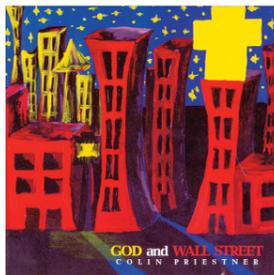


Folk artist Priestner ready to rally with fame



Colin Priestner

God and Wall Street
Blatant Records
www.colinpriestner.com

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Priestner's album would fit best into the folk/alternative rock genre, with its mellow but rock-ish tracks. However, while his album can be easily shunted into one musical genre, his distinct and impacting lyrics simply cannot.

Each track on the album stands alone as a beautiful piece of poetry. While Priestner may not have the prettiest voice, his emotion is always evident. From tackling issues like religion and politics, to dealing with bad days and lost loves, the album covers a broad spectrum of topics that provide us with Priestner's view of society.

Priestner has discovered a unique blend of songs, and with *God and Wall Street*, he's created an album that has a wealth of substance and relevance to important issues. Oh, and it simply sounds great.

Colin Priestner

With Dan Priestner
Friday, 20 October at 9pm
Sidetrack Café

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Everyone dreams about becoming a rock star at some point in his or her life, either for the fame or the money, or maybe just for the groupies. Unfortunately, though, most of us will never get to live out our *Entourage* fantasies and will have to settle for playing lead air guitar.

There are a few lucky people who make it into the business, however, and singer-songwriter Colin Priestner is one of them. The University of Alberta student—and former nationally ranked tennis player—has traded in his air guitar and tennis racquet for a real six string, and as a result has officially entered the Canadian folk/alternative music scene.

"I wasn't liking the pressure or the stress of [tennis], and so I started writing songs to deal with it," Priestner says. "I always knew I wanted to play songs and write them, but I couldn't play guitar, so I learned how to do that and wrote a bunch of songs."

"Besides, music has always been the biggest part of my life. Long before I started writing songs I would tell my parents as a joke, 'I'm going to be a famous singer'—not that I'm famous in the least bit," Priestner adds quickly.

All joking aside, it seems as though

Priestner really is on his way towards becoming a well-known figure, judging by recent audience reactions to his music. Not only have his songs been getting radio play on local stations, but he has also recently completed a tour of the northern US with one of his favorite folk singers, Dan Bern.

Despite gaining popularity with a larger fan base, Priestner says that the first audience he ever got approval from was his own father.

"I remember the first night I got back [from the US] I said [to my dad], 'I wrote a lot of songs; I want to play them for you,'" Priestner says. "I knew he was getting ready to cringe because, well, what did he know? To him, I didn't have any musical skills or talent or anything. He was shocked at first; I think he was expecting something bad. But it was immediate support."

After gaining approval from his dad, Priestner decided to take his music to the public. He started by taking the stage and playing open mic nights at venues like the Sidetrack Café.

"A guy who'd been playing me [in tennis] for years and years said it best after he saw me perform one night during the summer. He said, 'Well, you've been playing music for three months and you're way better at it than you are at tennis, which you've been playing for 15 years,' so I knew I wasn't embarrassing myself."

It was at this point that Priestner decided that it was time to cut an album with a band, and so he went into the studio to record his first full-length



SHAHEED MERANI

ARE YOU THERE, GOD? No, he's on Wall Street, according to Priestner's CD.

album, *God and Wall Street*.

Armed with an arsenal of songs and a great band to back him up, Priestner will be taking the stage at the Sidetrack Café again this Friday, not as a mere open mic performer, but instead as an artist releasing his latest work.

"It's going to be big, huge—I hope," Priestner laughs. "It's the first time I'll get to play live with the band who recorded with me. This show will be a whole new ball game. I do good impressions too, but you'll have to come to the show to hear those."

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