

# Tizzard introduces himself at last

After more than a decade, the bass wizard is finally the one in the spotlight

## musicpreview

### Ken Tizzard

Saturday, 14 July at 9pm  
The Black Dog  
10425 82nd Avenue

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Having spent 15 years as part of some of Canada's biggest acts, including The Watchmen and Thornley, bassist/singer Ken Tizzard's decision to go solo was a surprisingly easy one to make. He simply wanted to sample the quieter side of a musical life.

After leaving brother-in-law Ian Thornley's band in late 2005, Tizzard crossed into independent territory to develop and showcase his own songwriting chops, centred around his six-string bass. The resulting songs infuse a mellow style with fast '80s dance tunes, with Tizzard behind every single aspect of their creation.

"When I first left the commercial world and decided to do everything on my own, it was very exciting because I hadn't done the [do-it-yourself] thing in 15 or 18 years," Tizzard says. "Everything from doing the artwork, writing, recording, engineering, choosing photos, [editing] photos—everything you could possibly imagine I did myself. It was a really good perspective check for me after for so many years of just kind of showing up and having somebody pass me my guitar while

I'm up on stage."

Tizzard's meticulous efforts resulted in the release of *Quiet Storey House* ... an *Introduction* about a year ago. He moved to a small farm town near Toronto to write the album, but the move also ended up giving Tizzard his album's curious title.

"You know how it is with small towns, everybody kind of knows everybody, and when the new person comes in, everybody knows the new person but the new person doesn't know anybody!" Tizzard explains.

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KEN TIZZARD

"I kept meeting people on the street, and they'd say, 'Oh, you're the new guy who moved into the old story house' ... the family name who had the house for generations was the Storeys," he continues. "[While writing the record], I saw the songs in little vignettes, little stories of points of time in my life."

For example, "All Because Of You" is about the teenage heartbreak that no one ever really gets over. While

Tizzard isn't afraid to give away his songs' personal meanings, or write from a teenage perspective, he appreciates any new connections listeners may make with their own lives. Tizzard himself has discovered new, fresh interpretations to his work over time.

"About a year ago, I performed 'All Because of You' in Toronto. That morning, I'd gone to a friend of mine's funeral. I was offering my condolences to her husband," Tizzard recalls. "They'd been together for over fifty years, and I just remember thinking how devastating it must be to [lose] your childhood sweetheart, and after fifty or sixty years of marriage, to be left alone.

"That night, I dedicated that song to them," he continues. "It just became a very clear vision; even though it's about pining away for that teen love thing, it also has to do with [the question that] after all is said and done, are you going to wait for somebody on the other side?"

Tizzard is also currently between worlds, hovering over the choice of staying independent or going back to a major label. With ample experience on both sides, deciding if he'll return to a commercial label in the future will be that much more difficult. Right now, he's kicking back and enjoying his time spent sitting on the fence.

"As much as people have smashed the major labels and managers and all that stuff these days, there's an awful lot they do for you," Tizzard says. "When you've lived on both sides of the fence, you kind of see it a bit clearer."



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