



The Reviews are in - Kim Beggs' Blue Bones hits home

Blue Bones - the newest CD from Yukon singer/songwriter Kim Beggs and her debut on Black Hen Music - delivers on the promise of her first two critically acclaimed albums 'Wanderer's Paean' and 'Streetcar Heart'.

Sincere and vulnerable, clear eyed and tough, the familiar themes of love, loss, and hard fought freedom that Kim Beggs so convincingly explores, have reached a new level this time out. On *Blue Bones*, the effortless grace and breezy delivery that have become her vocal trademarks are supported by some of North America's most respected roots musicians to make this the best sounding album of an already impressive career.

Kim Beggs hasn't always made her living as a singer-songwriter, and as someone who began work at the tender age of twelve, she's definitely paid her dues. "I was born in Val d'Or, Quebec then we moved to northern Ontario. I was still quite young when we moved to Toronto, where I got my first job." From her upbringing, Kim inherited a worker's hands and a sturdy disposition – qualities she took on the road when - with only fifty dollars in her pocket and a pawnshop guitar, she migrated to the Yukon in the winter of 1991. There, she spent more than a decade swinging a hammer and working in the trades before she started performing away from the campfire and singing her own songs. It was in the North – a place she still calls home - that Kim Beggs truly found her voice.

It's often been said that all Canadian artists are influenced by geography, and while the soul informing Kim Beggs' music might sound Appalachian, it's easy to hear how the expansiveness of the Yukon allows her creative imagination to roam. Like all of Kim Beggs' music, the songs on *Blue Bones* authentically capture the rustic charm of the Canadian north, and allow people down south to experience the vicarious thrill of life in the outback from the comfort of their homes or a seat in a concert hall. *Blue Bones* features nine original tracks as well as four well-chosen cover songs, including interpretations of classics from Bob Dylan, Patty Griffin, and Jack Clement, as well as a stunning version of the old traditional, 'I'm Thinking of My Blue Eyes,' guaranteed to make any cynic's heart melt like spring ice.

And as the reviews for *Blue Bones* come back, one thing is clear: These songs hit home. The *Globe and Mail's* Robert Everett-Green, writing about her original track, 'Maiden Heart,' says, "her sturdy, trusting, girl-woman voice is perfect for this song about a kind of innocence that never dies." iTunes spotlighted 'Summertime Lonesome Blues' in their Singer Songwriter playlist. And John P. McLaughlin of *The Province* newspaper has called her songwriting, "refreshingly unconventional."

In fact, Kim's songwriting has earned praise throughout her career. She represented the nation at Canada Day celebrations in London's Trafalgar Square and, most recently, was a nominee in CBC Radio's Songquest competition. 'Wanderer's Paean' earned her a Canadian Folk Music Award and Western Canadian Music Award nomination along with a Porcupine Award for Find of the Year, while 'Streetcar Heart' earned her a Just Plain Folk (U.S.) award nomination.

So, with all the attention garnered for her first two releases, a lot was riding on the release of *Blue Bones*. Thankfully, in Steve Dawson of Black Hen Music, Kim Beggs has found a collaborator capable of helping her bring her vision to its fullest fruition. Dawson's masterful string playing and marrow-deep knowing musicianship graces every song in the album, and it's a thrill to hear his national steel, electric slide and weissenborn back-up Begg's heartfelt guitar.

With sympathetic support from John Raham (drums), Keith Lowe (bass) and Chris Gestrin (keyboards), the sound of *Blue Bones* is as deep, rich and organic as the place the music comes from. Vocal harmonies from Laurie Lewis, Gurf Morlix, Natalie Edelson and Jeanne Tolmie bring out a high lonesome sound with a distinctively Canadian feel, making *Blue Bones* sound like a lost Hazel Dickens album with a bright northern heart. On track after track, the players warm to the themes posed by Beggs' music, adding resonance and depth to her already powerful vocals and lyrics that explore the intersections of darkness and light.

Kim Beggs is an original talent who makes music that transcends style and fashion. Without so much as a backward glance at what others consider 'hip', she instead makes music that is true. Bold, brilliant, dark, and sincere, *Blue Bones* is well on its way to becoming one of the most memorable roots releases of 2010.

Reviews of Kim Beggs' *Blue Bones*:

"...her writing is refreshingly unconventional."

- **John P. McLaughlin, The Province**

"If Kim Beggs was making music when Joni Mitchell and Neil Young were getting their starts, this Yukon-based singer would be huge. Hopefully that will change with her third record, which is loaded with touching country folk tunes. Lyrics about loss, the north and searching for oil are backed by smooth slide guitars, delicate acoustics and rich harmonies."

- **Bryan Borzykowski, Metro**

"Kim Beggs' girl-woman voice is perfect for this song ['Maiden Heart'] about a kind of innocence that never dies"

- **Robert Everett Green, The Globe and Mail**

"The sweetly meandering melody, combined with countrified guitar and the gritty harmonies of American musician and producer Gurf Morlix, is the very definition of rootsy charm. ...Kim Beggs is Blue right down to her bones."

- **Rachel Sanders, Exclaim**

"*Blue Bones* maintains the new standard for Western Canadian folk music.

There is a spry loneliness filling these songs... in the finest country tradition, Beggs sounds plum pleased to be singing these occasionally mournful tales. She hits the mark throughout the collection..."

- **Donald Teplyske, Red Deer Advocate**

"Kim Beggs has the soft gentle voice of a dreamy-eyed teenage girl, the heart and soul of a young woman who is discovering the world is not as romantic as novels portray it, and the experience of a world-weary adult who understands the pains and crushing disappointments of life's dramas all too well."

- **Mark S. Tucker, FAME (USA)**

"Featuring a mix of her distinctive original songs as well as a few well-chosen covers, *Blue Bones* has rarely left my CD player since I first heard the album in the spring."

- **Doug Heselgrave, No Depression**

"*Blue Bones* is just what this generation of cynics needs right now. It is a collection of songs to curtail doom's best efforts and remind you that better days are ahead."

- **Christopher Llewellyn Adams, CASHBOX Magazine**

"*Blue Bones* is a gem"

- **Richard Thornley, Penguin Eggs (Canada's Roots Magazine)**