

YOUNGTREE AND THE BLOOMS

*"One of the most engaging new voices
within the Americana scene"*
- Roots Music Canada

"A world class winner ... true magic"
- Send Me Your Ears music review

"An absolute work of art" - Illustrate
Magazine

*"One of the best albums released in
Newfoundland this year"* - Tony
Ploughman, Fred's Records



QUICK FACTS

ALBUM RELEASE DATE: October 14, 2022

GENRES: Alt-Country, Americana

ALBUM SPOTIFY STREAMS: 26,000
*(as of Oct. 22, incl. pre-released singles)

AWARD NOMINATIONS: MusicNL Group of the Year
+ Country Artist of the Year



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YOUNGTREE AND THE BLOOMS

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES 2022

SOUVENIRS: THE SONGS OF JOHN PRINE (*Guest vocalist with John Prine Band*)

MARIPOSA FOLK FESTIVAL (*Orillia, ON*) - 5 performances

CAMERON HOUSE (*Toronto*)

KEMPT SHORE MARITIME FESTIVAL (*Nova Scotia*) - 4 performances

LUNENBURG FOLK HARBOUR SOCIETY: *Summer Concert Series* (*Nova Scotia*)

EAST COAST MUSIC AWARDS: *Export Showcase + Roots Showcase*



TESTIMONIALS

"Each song exuded originality and a powerful energy and I wanted them as part of the festival lineup. [Their] captivating songwriting combined with theatrical performances on stage was everything I imagined from them...They are dedicated to the craft, and beyond putting on a fabulous show for audiences they are also musicians' musicians."

-Liz Scott, Artistic Director
Mariposa Folk Festival (ON)

"The artistry, stagecraft, and banter were so finely tuned, it made for an incredible audience experience. Peter is mesmerizing on stage, quirky and colourful, and supported by the right kind of skillful players who share his obvious joy in performing. My encouragement? Book him!"

- Debbie Peters
Magnum Opus Management (BC)

"Low maintenance and professional and a cracking stage show ... I figure this band will be a regular on the "fave festival discovery" lists for the next few years for sure. Excellent workshop and small stage options as well. Highly recommended, excellent booking!"

- John Clarke, NL Folk Festival

"A stand-out ... deep, thought provoking lyrics with melodious music and a unique performance style ... highly and sincerely recommend for any organization or event interested in showcasing good and honest entertainment."

- Shirley Montague, Artistic Director
Trails Tales Tunes Festival (NL)

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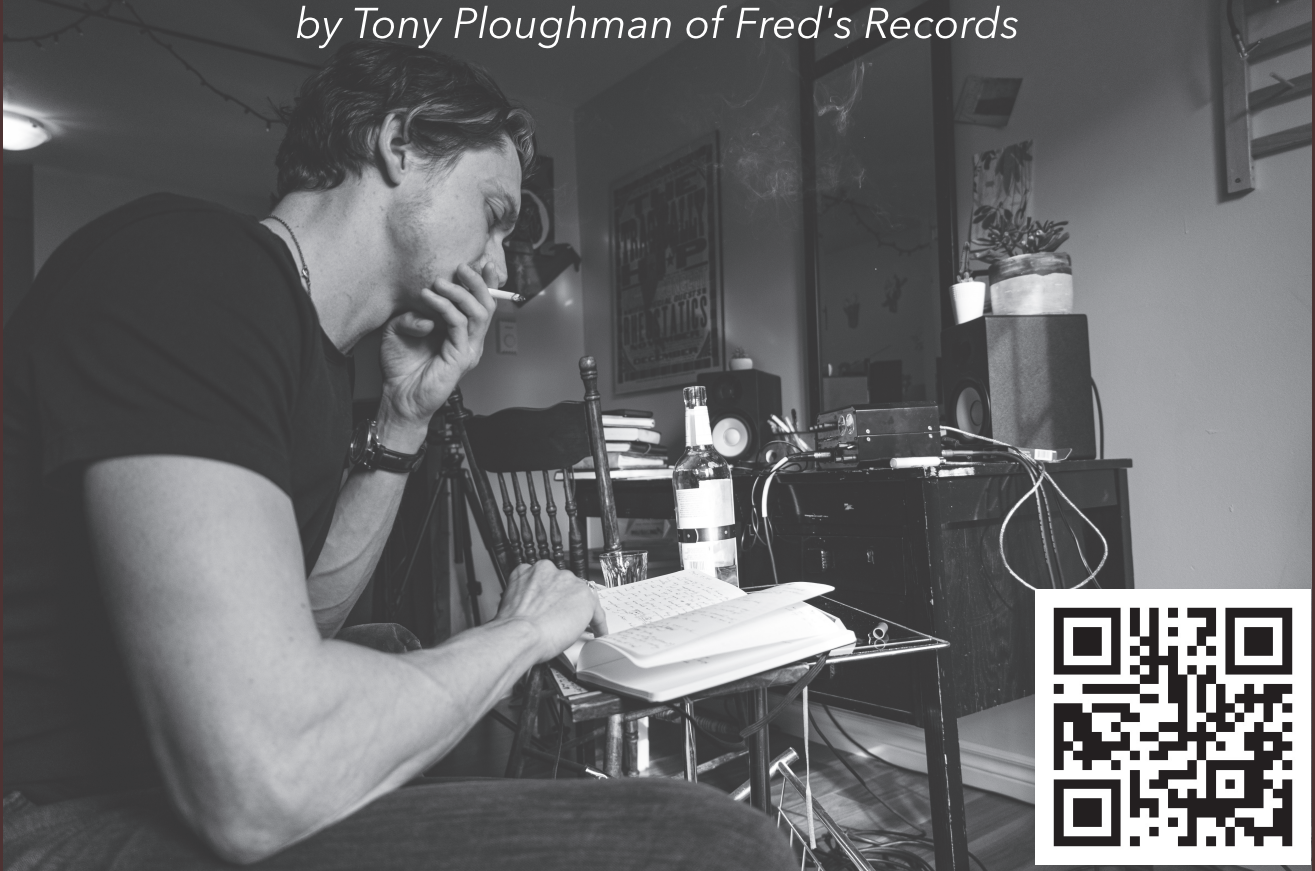


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A REVIEW OF YOUNGTREE AND THE BLOOMS: THE NEW SELF-TITLED ALBUM

by Tony Ploughman of Fred's Records



With the romanticism of early Steve Forbert, smarts of a young John Prine and a voice that comes from you and me, Peter Youngtree follows his last promising album with assurance he wasn't a one-shot wonder. Peter William Smith is the songwriter/vocalist of Youngtree & The Blooms. As a lyricist, he has built upon a combo of themes central to humanity with questions, hopes, despairs and a willingness to go down the road that lays out ahead of him in rotation.

The new CD opens softly with "Set Our Course For The Wind", the singer in a state of reflection and guarded optimism, reminding us of Dylan's assessment that an artist should never feel they've arrived at some place but be always in a 'state of becoming'. "Heaven Ain't A Lonely Road" picks up the tempo and we learn right away that Youngtree is a very good songwriter. Like many of the best troubadours of years gone by, he has a tender side. This is on display most notably in "I Watched You Smile", a truly poignant lyric.

"Seas Change" is a hi-light and the centerpiece, a song about love and support. The melodies crafted around Youngtree's verses are both jaunty and dirge-like in a pleasantly energetic way. In fact, the entire album is a splendid array of folksy/poetic writing and it's Youngtree's vocals; expressive, caring and knowing that resonate with every number. When a singer leaves you feeling as if you just had a drink with them at the bar and an empathetic 'slap on the shoulder' was delivered upon parting, you know you'll return for repeated listens. Mission accomplished.

Youngtree's Blooms consist of four main players, most notably, Carole Bestvater, whose violin and wonderful vocal harmonies help elevate Peter's lead vocals to an even sweeter place of beauty. Darren (Boobie) Browne, Chris Donnelley and Joe Tucker round out the band with several stellar NL guest musicians lending a hand throughout. Produced by Youngtree and Mark Feener, "Youngtree and The Blooms" is one of the best albums released in Newfoundland & Labrador this year.

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"SEAS CHANGE"

Video - Released October 25, 2022

*21,000 views as of November 8, 2022



"Seas Change" is the first official music video from Youngtree & The Blooms, filmed at sunset at the beautiful Gooseberry Cove Beach in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland. With breath-taking light and colour, the video compliments this dynamic love ballad, which features soaring string arrangements, ear-grabbing guitar-violin interplay, and a message that love transcends all problems; "Seas Change" is the 6.5-minute centrepiece of the new *Youngtree and The Blooms* album.

Video by Em Oates (Steel Cut Media). Watch it at youtube.com/pwyoungtree or scan the QR code to make your way there, where you can also find multiple live performance videos from Youngtree & The Blooms.

Biography: Youngtree & The Blooms

Youngtree & The Blooms is a band that can be counted on to liven up rooms and create pin-drop moments in equal measure. Their sound has been compared to Bob Dylan and Gram Parsons, but labels fit them loosely, as their musical influences range from Patsy Cline to Wilco. It's all there on the band's new self-titled album, *Youngtree and The Blooms*, a nine-song collection that establishes front man Peter Youngtree as one of the most engaging new voices within the Americana scene.

Youngtree (Peter William Smith) was raised in a family of folk musicians in rural Newfoundland, where group sing-alongs were mandatory and records spun for hours each day. Inspired by '50s and '60s pop, and both traditional and contemporary singer/songwriters, Youngtree learned guitar and started writing songs at age 15, keeping them in a locked box and taking pains to make sure no one ever heard them. At age 17 he became the singer in a rock band, lying his way into bars to play to much older crowds, but still never sharing his original music.

At 22, after earning a Psychology degree in Newfoundland, Peter took to the road, making a Kerouac-esque journey around the U.S. and Canada. Landing in Nashville, he was moved by the city's energy to finally commit to sharing his music. He wrote two songs that afternoon and debuted them on a downtown Nashville corner. When someone asked his name, he – for unknown reasons – replied "Peter Willie Youngtree," and so adopted the Youngtree moniker.

He returned to Newfoundland at 23 and continued writing and playing small house shows and organizing songwriters' circles. But, ever yearning for something intangible, he left again and would spend his 24th birthday at a Buddhist monastery in New Mexico, where he lived for two months undergoing monastic training – a spiritual practice he deepened over the years and continues to this day.

Partly influenced by this practice, Youngtree finished a collection of songs that became his self-produced 2015 debut album *Country Hymns*. He subsequently undertook four separate Canadian tours between 2015 and 2017 to support the album, and his efforts led to *Country Hymns* being long-listed for Newfoundland's Borealis Music Prize, and being named Country Recording of the Year at the 2016 MusicNL awards. At the same time, Youngtree began performing with a band of professional Newfoundland musicians – Carole Bestvater, Joe Tucker, Chuck Boyd, and Darren Browne – who would become "The Blooms."

Following Youngtree's final solo tour for *Country Hymns* and his first East Coast Music Awards showcase in 2017, he and The Blooms retreated to rural Newfoundland and spent four days working intensely with producer Chris Kirby to make the first Youngtree & The Blooms album, *Musical Chairs*. His range of comedic, imaginative, and deep lyrics, paired with sometimes experimental folk-country arrangements, earned him the Ron Hynes SOCAN Songwriter of the Year award, along with a 2019 Music NL Award for Alternative Group of the Year. The track "Ten Million Ways to Decay" was named one of the Top 25 East Coast songs of 2018 by The East magazine. The band toured Atlantic Canada in 2019 to support *Musical Chairs*, showcased at the Breakout Stage at the ECMAs, and secured bookings for a 2020 Canadian tour, which unfortunately was squashed due to the pandemic.

Youngtree & The Blooms returned to the road in July 2022, playing venues across Ontario and the Maritimes, including the Mariposa Folk Festival – where Peter was invited to perform with the John Prine Band – Toronto's Cameron House, and Nova Scotia's Kempt Shore Music Festival. Now with the arrival of *Youngtree and The Blooms* the band is poised to live up to its full potential, and add Peter Youngtree's name to the conversation about Canada's most impressive new voices in the Americana genre.



All photography by Em Oates (Steel Cut Media)

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