



[John Jeff Brandyberry](#) of [Diminished Pitch Entertainment](#), [Clyde Hill](#) of [Magnetized Management](#) and [Michael Stover](#) of [MTS Management Group/MTS Records](#) are pleased to announce an interview series featuring artists that are part of the Featured Artist program on DJ [Nik](#)'s syndicated award winning show The [Whiskey and Cigarettes Radio Show](#) featuring the interviews with various different artist in the [Country Music Scene](#) from all over the world. Interviews done by Willy The Beast Forrest. This series begins with Calgary Country Music Artist [Michael Owens](#).



1) Hello Michael Owens to start the interview off I would like for you to introduce yourself to the reading audience and tell them a little bit about yourself.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this interview.

2) Could you give the reading audience information about the bands that you have been in through out your career?

I've been numerous bands. Early in my career I performed covers of bands such as [Led Zeppelin](#) and [Whitesnake](#) in the club scene around Calgary. I later moved out to Toronto where I performed for 3 years in an all original neo-classical metal band. After that band broke up I returned to [Calgary](#) where I fronted an original metal band called "Valhalla".



3a) At what age did you begin singing?

I began singing at the age of five, and joined a choir before age 7.



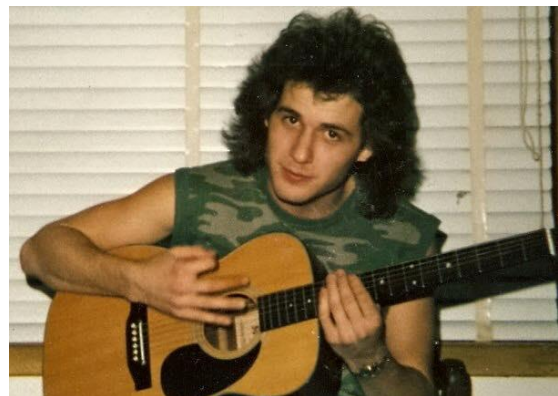
b) Who have been your influences as a vocalist in regards to the styles of music throughout your career?

[Robert Plant](#), [Geoff Tate](#), [David Coverdale](#), [Ronnie James Dio](#), Van Louis (my vocal coach, who was the original lead vocalist of "[The Stampedeers](#)")

Note: Picture to the left is Michael Owens with Van Louis.

4 a) I know that you are friends with one of my best friends [Gil Tougas](#) I would like for you to tell the audience how you got to meet Gil?

I met Gil when his band "Machine Head" performed in the small rural Alberta community where I lived. We have very similar tastes in musical and vocal tastes, and immediately hit it off. We've performed together on numerous occasions since then, but never in the same band.



b) I happen to know the song lady was written by Gil Tougas that you first submitted to the management of DJ Nik's Whiskey and Cigarettes Radio Show and I would like for you to explain to the audience your collaboration with Gil for your release of Lady (written by Gil Tougas) and give details into regards of production of the song and the video on Youtube with the link supplied in this interview?



Yes, I am very grateful to Gil for letting me record "Lady" as the debut for my solo career. Gil also introduced me to [Emre Cords](#) who produced both the song and video for Lady. The Executive Producer was Mel Shaw, with whom, I had just hooked up with for guidance and mentorship. I had also just broke up with my last band, and parted ways with my life long writing partner. I had dreamed about working with Mel for many years, and felt a sense of urgency to get things going right away, due to his health concerns. I needed new material, and I needed it now. Gil was the first person I thought of.

Aside from being the former manager of The Stampders, Mel was the founding President of [CARAS](#) when they first presented Canada's Juno Awards. Mel has produced over 20 hits, and was inducted into the CARAS Music Hall of Fame in 1991. You can check out his industry credits along with a short video of his induction (by [Bruce Allen](#) who was [Bryan Adam's](#) manager) [here](#).

<http://209.59.160.97/~melshaw/industrycredits.html>

Lady Video Release

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVVvPmIFe08>



Gil Tougas.

<https://www.giltougas.com/>

After years of performing live I still enjoy playing as much as I did in my early days touring with Sweet Lucy.

I am currently doing a lot of acoustic solo work in and around Calgary, AB. I am also a member of [Lack of Prozac](#), Lost Boys, 3-Way, and [Brokentoyz](#).

The release of my solo album "Freedom" in 2011 showcases my versatility as a singer, song writer and musician. I am presently working on new material for a future release.

Thanks for all your continued support.

c) Question for Gil Tougas what influenced you to write Lady and was this song not written on an acoustic guitar?

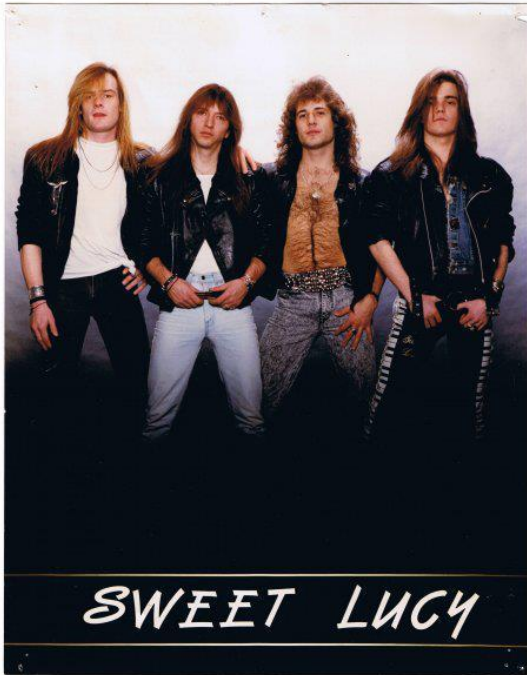
Gils Answer; *I was inspired to write the music for "Lady" on an acoustic guitar while on the road with Sweet Lucy in Grand Prairie during the late 80s /early 90s. I watching a movie called "[Tap](#)" starring [Gregory Hines](#) and [Sammy Davis Jr.](#) It just inspired me to write that music.*

The lyrics came later regarding a relationship I was in that didn't work out

Note to Gil:

Thank you on behalf of John Jeff Brandyberry, Clyde Hill, Michael Stover and DJ Nik of The Whiskey and Cigarettes County Radio Show for taking part in this particular interview presentation.

Willy The Beast Forrest.



d) Gil could you please tell the reading audience about performing “Lady” with your band Sweet Lucy the band that you were in and please mention members of the band and crew?

I recorded in 1990 at Sundae Sound Studios in Calgary with Sweet Lucy. The members at that time consisted of [Steve Jacobson](#) on drums, Darrell Coombes on bass, [James Todd](#) on keyboards and myself on vocals and guitar, I pretty well produced it, we played live it went over quite well. We sold a lot of copies independently, I can't remember the number of copies sold. I wasn't in charge of that, our crew at the time was Lyle Coombes on sound Dan Coombes on lights and Willy The Beast Forrest sometimes on monitors we also had a follow spot/roadie named Sonny Hewlett.

e) Michael could you please comment on my questions to Gil and your thoughts as to your project with Lady?

I can relate well to the lyrics that Gil wrote, and suspect I might even know the other person in the relationship he just described. Coincidentally, I still collaborate with James Todd whom Gil just mentioned as a co-member of his in Sweet Lucy.



Photo by Kenneth Locke

Comment by Willy The Beast Forrest:

Calgary has got a wonderful music scene at one time there used to be lots of places to play big rooms where road crews had to load into, when the music of the late 1990s came in a lot of places closed but bands playing the North Center Inn where a lot of top bands would play several times with several bands like Sweet Lucy gave exposure for bands that played originals but not recording acts gave a lot of bands a lot of exposure that are recording acts today. Calgary is also known for a big country music scene and home of the [Calgary Stampede](#).



f) As a monitor Tech I have the chance to ask Michael about the floor monitors as well as Gil Tougas

Gils Response: *As for vocal monitors I do not like in-ears, they don't work for me. I use monitors either on floor or flown, I like to use them for clarity and not sheer volume, I like to hear my voice out of the mains and of the sound man knows what he's doing I almost don't need monitors!!*

Michaels Response: *One of the things I appreciate most about Gil is his professionalism. He is an extremely talented vocalist and equally talented guitarist. I am envious that he doesn't have to compete with a guitarist who doesn't understand the value in keeping stage volume down. Anytime I've seen Gil perform, he's always found the right balance.*



Soundcraft Spirit 32 Channel Monitor Board

Comment by Willy The Beast Forrest:

I have had the pleasure of working with Gil both as a front house sound man and as a monitor tech with Lyle and what he says is true about clarity instead of volume I find in ears may work but old school monitors like what Gil prefers I tend to agree with his analogy for his particular vocal style.

Gil is also correct about hearing the vocals off the main house sound through a proper mix monitors are only a guideline for the performers off the stage and this can vary from room to room. Today many bands do not travel with their own road crews which can put pressure on the band if the front house tech does not know what he is doing.



g) Are there any future plans of perhaps doing an acoustic video in the future of Lady with Gil as it was written on an acoustic?

I would love to perform "Lady" live sometime with Gil on acoustic and Emre on cello.

Comment by Willy The Beast Forrest

I really like that idea of adding [Greg Cox](#) who plays with Gil in several bands and have Gil and you sing the song together. I think it would bring a new dynamic to Lady!

Interview with Greg Cox ([Chemical Cowboys](#), [Playground Zone](#), Steeler, [Broken Toyz](#), Lost Boys, etc.)

https://diminishedpitchnetwork.yolasite.com/resources/Document_Photos/Greg%20Cox%20Guitarist%20Chemical%20Cowboys.pdf

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/diminishedpitchnetwork/2017/05/24/yeehaw-show--guitarist-greg-cox-chemical-cowboys>

and an upcoming interview for Diminished Pitch Entertainment's feature of Guitar Players.

6) The song Lady is not the only cover tune that you have done and also on video is the song "Oh My Lady" please mention to the reading audience the band that performs this and the reason why you decided to cover this particular tune? Feel free to give as much information here about this song for the audience.

My vocal coach van Louis introduced me to The Stampeders during their reunion, and I was very impressed with how Kim Berly sang the song so well while playing drums. I noticed how the crowd reacted, and felt I could do a really good job too. Shortly thereafter, I cut my long, long hair (longer than I had ever seen on any man) and took a job working as a roughneck on a rig in Siberia, Russia, just so I could earn enough money to record my own version of the song. Since my mentor Mel Shaw was the original producer of the 1973 hit, it seemed like a no brainer to finally fulfill my goal and record Oh My Lady.



Oh My Lady.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0qkp8sxSdA&feature=share>



7) Which brings me to another cover song that you have done Michael Owens, the song "Something To Sing About" but it brings up a few questions that I have Michael Owens The song was originally written by [Oscar Brand](#). Your video that you have out on youtube, looks like a tribute to Canada's 150 Anniversary that happened in 2017. So here is my two questions that I have for you.

a) Have you always liked this particular song could you explain for our reading audience.

Mel Shaw asked me to record "Something To Sing About", as part of his master plan. Mel had a very close relationship with the folk legend Oscar Brand. Numerous stars got their start on Oscar's TV and radio shows such as [Gordon Lightfoot](#), [Bob Dylan](#), [Peter Paul & Marry](#), and [Simon & Garfunkel](#). I loved the idea, but Emre felt it wasn't my style. I argued back that I am a proud Canadian, and THAT is my style. The first takes were much better than anticipated. Unfortunately, Oscar passed away as we put the final mixes on the song but I feel that was watching, listening, and smiling down on our accomplishment. I am honored that his widow Karen, gave us a beautiful endorsement for the song.

b) With us being Canadians what stands out in your mind of the year 2017?

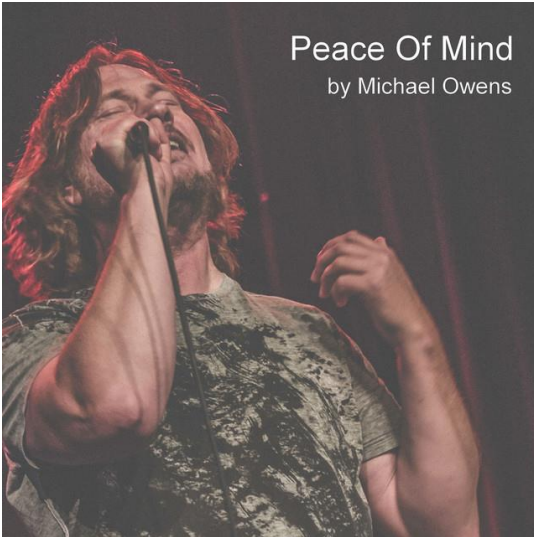
The thing that stands out about 2017 is celebrated Canada's 150th birthday with over 200 people on my acreage. The party was co-sponsored by Olds Classic Rock 104.5, and 15 bands performed over 2 days.

Something to Sing About

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIxHlkopr8k&feature=share>



CANADA 150



Peace Of Mind by Michael Owens

8) The last video that Diminished Pitch Entertainment Radio and Magazine Division and The Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Radio Show is promoting is the song "Peace of Mind" which brings up this three part question.

a) Could you tell the audience what influenced this song Michael?

The song was inspired by my concern for humanity. More specifically for my son's safety, and for his children's safety in the future. It was also inspired by my colleague James Todd's mother who died without having peace of mind for James future.

b) What feelings were you going through when you recorded it?

It took over a year to record this version. We were very tempted to make it heavier, and more like Led Zeppelin, but ultimately kept it adult contemporary. There were lots of highs and lows, and frustration. Ultimately, the song ended up as I envisioned.

c) And what actually gives Michael Owens a Peace of Mind?

For me, Peace of Mind will ultimately be achieved, when I feel confident my son has the skills necessary to succeed, and to live a safe life.

Peace of Mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSYkc0ZiV8>



Photo by Kenneth Locke

9) From what I know Michael you are part of the Featured Artists of The Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Radio Show hosted by non-other than the Casanova Cowboy himself DJ Nik who lives in Milan and also was the host of the Metal From Milan Radio Program too. I am supplying a link for our audience to listen to his interview with yourself.

Interview with Nik on Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Music Radio Show

<https://soundcloud.com/nik-bernitz-pizzigoni/whiskey-cigarettes-interview-wmichael-owens>

Now after listening to this interview I would like the answers to these three questions first:



a) Could you in detail give the audience your thoughts about the interview that you had with DJ Nik?

I think Nik was an excellent host, and really appreciate his support!

b) There are other great interviewers from Television, Radio and Print who would you like to be interviewed by and the reason why?

I love being interviewed, and all exposure is positive.

c) I happened to have done a print interview with DJ Nik and I asked as a follow up what question I should ask you in this particular interview and I also asked Gil Tougas a similar question for this interview and here is Nik's question.

Which NHL Team Michael do you dislike the most and why?

The Edmonton Oilers. Mostly because of their fans and the rivalry with Calgary.



Interview with DJ Nik:

https://diminishedpitchnetwork.yolasite.com/resources/Document_Photos/DJ%20Nik%20Whiskey%20and%20Cigarettes%20Country%20Radio%20Show.pdf

d) Gil what is your most favorite Hockey Team in The NHL

I was originally a Montreal fan being born there, 1980 became an Oilers fan when I move to Edmonton in 1980 but I've been a Flames fan since 1987.

Comment by Willy The Beast Forrest

I know Nik is very much a Montreal Fan and not only does Calgary have a rivalry like you mentioned Michael with the Edmonton Oilers but I tend to bug Nik that Calgary beat Montreal on their home ice the only team to do so the year that Edmonton traded Wayne Gretzky it is Canada's game and we all cheer

for Canadian Teams. Think over 100 years of hockey Calgary is the only team to beat the Montreal Canadians :)



Guppy Color Strains

Philip Shaddock

10 a) I recently asked Nik this question what was the toughest interview you ever had to prepare for and the reason why?

Nik's Response:

When I had to go completely out of my comfort zone and research the marine world and in particular guppies for the interview with Philip Shaddock, I never thought in my whole career I would be discussing that subject but then again was extremely interesting and informative for me to scrape the surface of this incredibly complex and vast world!

b) Then I asked Michael Owens, I am wondering if you have any interest in Tropical fish or any other pets or hobbies?

I think tropical fish can be very colorful, and that aquariums in general provide a pleasant ambiance. I personally prefer dogs and cats, because of the bond one can create with them.

I asked Gil Tougas what was his biggest challenge as a musician?

One of the hardest thing I've had to deal with being a professional musician is i definitely miss out on a lot of social activities with my family and friends. When you work full-time as I do, 95 percent of the time its in the evening/night, it can get lonely .. but that's the nature of the business. If you can find some-one, which I have, to share your life with that understands this hang onto it!! it's worth more than gold!!

It's also a little taxing on the soul that i can't do original music full time because it doesn't pay the bills. You have to be very versatile and play a wide range of cover music to do this full-time! I'm generally an entertainer/jukebox but I'm still doing something I love, which is playing music. It's a bit of a trade off but hopefully sometime in the near future I will be able to play and record my music/ on a full-time basis and earn a living at it! That is my ultimate goal, always has been always will be!!

11) In Closing Michael if there is anything else that you would like to add to this interview that you think that the audience would be interested feel free to comment and I have enjoyed interviewing you on behalf of Diminished Pitch Entertainment Radio Division Network in conjunction with the featured artist of the syndicated Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Radio Show

Thank you Nik, Michael, John Jeff Brandyberry, Clyde and Willy for all your support!!



To turn into the many syndicated stations that the Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Radio Show by looking at following URL:

<http://www.whiskeyandcigarettesshow.com/stations>

For airplay consideration, please send mp3 files to :

<mailto:whiskeyandcigsshow@gmail.com?subject=Submission of Music to The Whiskey and Cigarettes Country Radio Show>

Country music artists can contact <mailto:michael@mtsmanagementgroup.com> [?subject=Interview Inquiries](mailto:michael@mtsmanagementgroup.com?subject=Interview Inquiries) for interview inquiries.

For further information regarding the Featured Artist Promotion please contact [Barb Leatherman](#) : <mailto:bleatherman25@gmail.com?subject=Featured%20Artist%20Promotion>