

Andrea England

Bio

In the few short years since she arrived in Toronto from Sand Point, a seaside town in Nova Scotia - via Halifax and Ottawa - Andrea's led a charmed life and a career marked by talent, hard work and sheer determination.

Having already gained recognition for "Heart Wide Open (Eyes Wide Shut)", a song which won her early radio play, an Internet following, and a fan in other songwriters such as Dan Hill, England moved to Toronto determined to make her mark on the city's busy songwriting scene.

Since then, she's taken part in four major songwriting gathering - including a major ASCAP summit in Los Angeles as the only Canadian with 11 other writers. She won a prize in the prestigious John Lennon Songwriting Contest, and was the only double-finalist in this year's USA Songwriting Contest. She slipped back home to Halifax for her second major showcase at East Coast Music Awards - her third is upcoming in Feb'2005 - and she's had a song ("Sometimes") picked up for a Dawson's Creek DVD (Season 4).

Most importantly, she spent a year writing and recording her debut full-length CD, Lemonade - a catchy collection of hook-filled songs written with the heart, passion and sense of fun of a convinced, convincing writer - and topped it off by signing a national distribution deal with Maplenationwide / Universal Music.

"I grew up listening to my parents' country and classic rock records, where people played their own instruments and wrote their own songs," she tells interviewers. "I knew exactly what I wanted this record to sound like...I wanted to make it sound very live and organic, and a big part of it for me was finding the right team to work with..."

Co-produced by BMG producer-writer and Northern Pikes front man Bryan Potvin and Andrea - with additional tracks produced by Creighton Doane, Brett Rosenberg, and England herself - "Lemonade" boasts some exceptional musicians for a debut. Potvin played lead and rhythm guitars; Creighton Doane (Melanie Doane, Alannah Myles) played drums & percussion; keyboard giant Richard Bell (Janis Joplin, The Band) added his distinctive touches on 7 of the album's 11 tracks. Other contributors included Drew Birston (Chantal Kreviazuk) on bass, cellist Kevin Fox (Shaye), Anthony Vanderburgh (Roch Voisine, Amy Sky), Dave Milliken, Kim Sheppard, and David Baxter on guitars and Toronto singer-songwriter Linda M. on guest vocals in Can't Let You Go (a song she and England co-wrote). England also played piano and guitar, and was intimately involved in every aspect of the project, even solo producing the album's haunting ballad "This Occasion."

England is certainly no stranger to the stage. Picking out tunes on the organ at age three and singing in the local variety concerts by four, England over the last few years has performed with Jorane, jacksoul, Ashley MacIsaac, J. Englishman, Martha Wainwright, Damhnait Doyle, Tara MacLean, Charley Major, and Sue Medley - just to name a few. Her experience, hard work, songwriting skills and tenacity - as well as a sharply developed "do-it-myself" work ethic - is what is taking Andrea England out of the ranks and into the spotlight. No short cuts. No quick juries to send her to "success" or oblivion. Just great songs, sung by an artist with heart, a likeable sparky personality and the ability to make summer as warm as we want it to be, and as cool as a tall glass of lemonade....

Andrea England's been a very busy woman since the release of "Lemonade". A few short months after its release in late 2004, Lemonade garnered three Nova Scotia Music Award nominations, including Female Artist & New Artist Recording of the Year. A past finalist in the John Lennon International and USA Songwriting Competitions, Andrea's songs have appeared on the CBS TV hit series "Joan of Arcadia," ABC Family's "Beautiful People," and the most recent Dawson's Creek DVD. Andrea's song "Sometimes" was the fastest song to reach #1 on the nationally syndicated "East Coast Countdown" in 2005. Andrea was placed on the official Ballot in 7 categories for the 2006 Grammy Awards for her debut album Lemonade, and was the recipient of the Pop Rock Award at the 2005 Toronto Independent Music Awards. Upcoming for Andrea is a showcase in New York City at the famous "Living Room" on April 28th!