

Burlington Post

Using Communication to Build Better Communities

www.burlingtonpost.com

BURLINGTON POST, Wednesday August 20, 2008 21

City Update
News on Your Community
EVERY FRIDAY
in the Burlington Post

The Arts

Entertainment Editor Dennis Smith
dsmith@haltonsearch.com

ConsideringCremation.ca
You need information call
(905) 522-5466
BAYVIEW
In town cremations-call us direct

TV series features musicians with songs in their hearts

By Dennis Smith
BURLINGTON POST STAFF

John Serre is on a mission to shine the spotlight on the songs of local musicians.

"No more shoebox songwriting," he said. "A lot of the time you write them (songs) and love goes into it. You put them on record and then into a shoebox and never do anything with them."

Series starts in September

To reverse that trend, Serre has organized a songwriter series called *In A Song*, slated to air on TVCOGECO next month.

He has assembled 20 local singer/songwriters who'll perform their tunes during 10 half-hour programs produced by James Spalding of TVCOGECO.

"I firmly believe that most of the hit songs in Canada, you never hear," said Serre, noting songwriters usually need a record label. "But there are a lot of amazing writers with a lot of amazing songs. There are so many different



John Serre

types of music."

The series is slated to start on Sept. 18, with episodes broadcast on Thursdays and Sundays

at 9 p.m. It will include adult contemporary music, country, jazz, Latin, easy listening, rock and blues.

Viewers will hear three songs per guest, performing in an intimate atmosphere.

"In some cases, the artist will introduce the song and tell a little story about the song," said Serre. "There'll be more about the person and where you could get the person's music."

He'll introduce each episode and play a one-minute excerpt from one of his own songs. Serre plans to play music similar to what'll be featured in a particular episode.

He has met guests for the series through running the Halton Regional Writers Group for the Songwriters Association of Canada for three years.

Participating artists in the series are as follows: Phase I - Shawn Brush (The Crooked Cowboy), John DiBattista, Linda M., Elana Harte, Fred Smith, Mariano Ochoa, John Restas and Todd Pypier.

Phase II - Christopher Clause, Pascal Labilloy, Ronnie McKay, John Layton, Lynn

Jackson, Rob Birmingham, AVA AVA, Bonny Morgan, Bob Bryden, Jaret Koop, Hank Redman and Dan McVeigh.

Serre is also involved in music on a number of other fronts. He teaches songwriting and guitar to those aged 30 and up and is director of sales development for Masterwriter Software of Canada.

The Oakville resident, who lived in Burlington while growing up, is also a singer, songwriter and musician. He plays electric and acoustic guitars and the dobro, a metal-plated guitar that produces a twangy, blues sound.

Serre recently recorded 13 songs for an album entitled *Welcome to Swampland*. He describes it as a mix of blues, country, rock, bluegrass, folk and Southern rock.

For the recording and gigs, he works with a loosely-knit group of musicians called The Loaned Strangers.

For more information about the upcoming television series, call 905-407-HUMM or visit www.hummmusic.com or www.the-songwriterssource.com.