

# Neustaeter part of Lyric's 100th anniversary CD

BY JESSI GOWAN — jgowan@prairiepost.com

Swift Current's Lyric Theatre gave local songwriters the chance to express themselves through a professionally recorded song for the Lyric Theatre 100th Anniversary Compilation CD, which will be released this January.

Following a contest looking for both songs and art created to celebrate the Lyric Theatre, the community of Swift Current, and the southwest region, 12 songs were selected to be included on the album, which will be used as a fundraising tool for the theatre. Money raised will be used to aid the Southwest Cultural Development Group in restoring the theatre, as well as to help bring in more talent to perform at the venue.

Local musician Andrea Neustaeter moved to the prairies from New Brunswick in 1988, and has grown to love life on a Saskatchewan farm.

Her appreciation for the vastness of the prairies inspired her to write a song for the contest entitled *Where I Belong*.

"I married a grain farmer and I was warmly welcomed by the community here," she explained. "I love the fields, the sunsets, the openness of this area."

Her song touches on the beauty of southwest Saskatchewan, focusing on the crocus that blooms for such a short time in the spring.

"It is really a different kind of beauty, because you don't really see it unless you are in the field," she said. "It's understated, and that's how I see this area, this province. It's harsh in some ways, but that's what inspires me about being in a place like this."

Neustaeter has done a lot of songwriting in an informal way, but this is one of her first ventures into a more public forum.

After taking an online class, she has felt more confident about showing her work to an audience, and

even composed music that was published earlier this year.

"That was neat, but it's a completely different type of writing than songwriting and lyrics," she admitted. "I've always been interested in songwriting, and started when I was a teenager, but I more played at it than anything else."

It was actually one of the music students who suggested she write something for the Lyric Theatre's songwriting contest. Neustaeter was enthusiastic about the idea, since she is a strong supporter of the theatre restoration project.

"The theatre has really come a long way in developing local talent and bringing new talent to this area, which is very important for a community," she said. "There are lots of people like me who wouldn't put themselves out in a big way, but who would like to express what they think through music. Having the chance to do that is a great opportunity for sure."

# Rosetown native contributed to Swift Current Lyric Theatre's CD

BY JESSI GOWAN — jgowan@prairiepost.com

Local songwriters were offered the chance to express themselves through a professionally-recorded song for the Lyric Theatre's 100th Anniversary Compilation CD, which will be released Jan. 28.

Following a contest looking for both songs and art created to celebrate the Lyric Theatre, the community of Swift Current, and the southwest region, 12 songs were selected to be included on the album, which will be used as a fundraising tool for the theatre.

Money raised will be used to aid the Southwest Cultural Development Group in restoring the theatre, as well as to help bring in more talent to perform at the venue.

Although Rosetown's Vern Michaels doesn't have any specific ties to the Lyric Theatre, as a member of the southwest chapter of the Country Music

Association, he has visited the venue many times.

"I'd heard of the theatre, being a member of a chapter based out of Swift Current," he explained.

"I saw a poster and it looked like something interesting to get involved with, since the theatre is turning 100 years old and that's kind of a big deal."

For his song, *8 O'Clock Show*, Michaels drew inspiration from the history of both the Lyric Theatre and Swift Current itself.

After growing up in Ontario, and spending many years in Alberta, Michaels moved to Saskatchewan in 1995 and has enjoyed being inspired by the province.

"There is a lot of history here that most people don't even take the time to look at, roots that run so deep in this province," he noted.

"I wrote this song after reading a little history of the Lyric Theatre and Swift Current. I imagined what life would have been like on the prairies back in the early years of the Lyric and what an event it would be heading to a show in town after working hard on the

farm. I just let creativity take it from there, thinking about what it was like when the theatre was in its heyday."

Michaels is no stranger to songwriting and performing. Music has been an important part of his life for more than 25 years.

"It's rewarding in a lot of ways that aren't necessarily monetary, so you really do it because you love it," he said. "It's inspiring."

He was also inspired by the Lyric Theatre's current story, and enjoyed having an opportunity to help the Southwest Cultural Development Group raise more funds to help with the venue's restoration.

"The theatre is turning 100 years old this year, and I think every piece of history that runs that deep needs support," he explained. "It's an important part of the community that it's in. It's always a shame to see in other cities, when they tear down buildings like that. We should be keeping the past alive and keeping landmarks alive, because it's important to who we are and what road we head down."



# Saskatoon's Jen Lane hits the road to Swift Current

BY JESSI GOWAN — jgowan@prairiepost.com

Saskatoon's Jen Lane will perform with her band at the Lyric Theatre on Jan. 14 as part of the Blenders music series. Smokekiller, the solo acoustic act of John Antoniuk, will open the show.

Lane got an early start in music, with a mother who held stereo headphones to her belly to ensure Lane was well-versed in the Rolling Stones before even leaving the womb. Piano lessons began in elementary school, and by Grade 8, Lane had started learning the guitar.

In her teens, Lane started frequenting punk rock shows and would come to write folk music until the early morning hours.

At the age of 16, Lane recorded her first album, encouraged by the support of her friends and family

members. The following year, she received a Prairie Music Award nomination and started getting gigs in bars, although Lane was still underage. Enough copies sold of Lane's debut album to fund the recording of a second album, *Injection*, which was released in 2002.

In 2006, Lane received a grant from the Rawlco Radio Group to fund her 'grown-up debut', *Jen Lane*. The album received a Western Canadian Music Award nomination for Best Independent Album, and earned her an opportunity to showcase at SXSW.

Due to a broken foot, however, Lane was unable to maintain a touring schedule.

With her latest release, *For the Night*, Lane combines some catchy songs with laid-back style that evokes



Jen Lane will be at Blenders Jan. 14.

Lucinda Williams and a pure, wistful voice that at times recalls Edie Brickell. The album's vintage-country sound is enhanced by special guests Kevin Kane (The Grapes of Wrath) on electric guitar, John Ellis (Ridley Bent) on pedal steel, Simon Kendall (Stellar Band, Wyckham Porteous) on keys, Sam Cartwright (Stellar Band) on drums, and Drake on bass, acoustic and electric guitars, glockenspiel, autoharp, and vocals.

Jen Lane and Smokekiller will perform at the Lyric Theatre Jan. 14. Doors open at 8 p.m., with music beginning at 9 p.m.

Tickets for the show are \$20 and available at Pharmasave or by contacting Shann at 778-2686 or srgowan@yourlink.ca.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Peters** - Born to Karen and Tony of Swift Current, a baby boy born December 18, 2011.

**Morrow** - Born to Kim and Sheldon of Swift Current, a baby girl born on December 21, 2011.

**Tumback** - Born to Nicole and Todd of Swift Current, a baby girl on December 20, 2011.

**Anderson** - Born to Darylea and Mathew of Swift Current, a baby boy on December 18, 2011.

**Enns** - Born to Maria and Charles of Herbert, a baby boy on December 21, 2011.

**Kalousis** - Born to Rene and Dimitrios of Swift Current, a baby boy on December 16, 2011.

**Lewans** - Born to Rebecca and Pete of Shaunavon, a baby girl on December 19, 2011.

**Forsyth** - Born to Erin and Mason Forsyth of Herbert, baby boy born on December 27, 2011.

**Keith** - Born to Natalie and Keith Keith of Swift Current, baby boy born on December 28, 2011.

**Waldner** - Born to Annie and Arnie Waldner of Kyle, baby girl born on December 26, 2011.

**Ehner** - Born to Kellie and Brandon Ebner of Swift Current, baby boy born on December 26, 2011.

**Lacelle** - Born to Jodie and Jacques Lacelle of Swift Current, baby boy born on December 24, 2011.

**Barraca** - Born to Aileen-Ey and John Ray- JR of Swift Current, baby boy born on December 19, 2011.

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