



JEFF CALLERY

The Best in Country in Leeds-Grenville

By Lorraine Payette

The second you hear Jeff Callery play, you'll be sure you just landed at the Oprey in Nashville. Whether he's playing solo or working with a band, expect clean licks, a throaty, soulful voice and a sound that keeps you thirsting for more.

A singer/songwriter of country, rock and folk music, he has been happily performing originals and covers throughout Ontario, parts of other provinces and the US since 1989. He spends his days working as a financial advisor at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Gananoque, but after hours it's time for music and family to take control.

"My wife is my biggest supporter, business partner, co-writer, and muse," he says. "My family has been supportive at all levels and continues to be. My wife is my rock; my children, as well as my brothers and sisters, have been my biggest fans and most caring

critics; my parents have been a driving force since day one. Aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents – they're all my biggest fans and most ardent supporters. It's a real family business!"

Callery's first gig was at Gananoque Secondary School in 1990, playing as The Change, with fellow musicians Troy Killingbeck, Steve Bickerton and Chris Scott. It wasn't long before he found his first paying job.

"I was bartending at The Country Squire during my senior years in high school. One evening, a solo performer by the name of Billy Bridger was playing the little pub and asked if anyone wanted to get up and jam. There were four people in the pub, and one of them nominated me because I knew a tune or two. My boss, Roger Gollogly, came in and caught me playing instead of bartending. I told Roger that performing was something I did often when I wasn't working at the Squire – pure fabrication to save my job. Roger thought it would be a great idea to host a full evening in the large conference room for a special show with Jeff Callery. I came home that night and told my Mom and Dad I had a gig coming up in a few months. I proceeded to learn 60 songs over the next several weeks and played to a packed house for a full night. I've been

professional ever since. I actually lied my way onto the stage. Roger and I laughed about it many years later."

Callery prefers playing with a band, but will perform solo, duets and trio as the opportunity permits. He counts himself fortunate to have played with artists like John Wilberforce (Oxford Station), Gino Del Sole (Ajax), Shawn McCullough (Westport), Jef Leeson (Marmor), Kevin Crotty (Kingston), Glen Crotty (Gananoque), Kevin Head (Gananoque) and Wade Foster (Perth).

"The great thing about music is, that when you're feeling down about your craft, family, friends, fellow musicians, fans and a supportive home town, are all there to give you lots of reasons to look back and feel proud of what you've accomplished. They also help you look forward and feel excited for what's to come. I try to stay honest with my expectations and my capabilities with regards to my music and my life. Lately, I spend a lot of time challenging my writing. I want to make a difference to the people who hear my music – that helps me focus on the important art and skill of my craft.

"It seems I manage life about 3 1/2 minutes at a time – from this song until the next, always planning which lyrics will have the most meaning." LH

To learn more about Jeff Callery, go to www.reverbNation.com/jeffcallery, twitter @jcallerySinger, and Facebook at Jeff Callery – Singer/Songwriter. For a taste of his music go to www.youtube.com and under search type Jeff Callery.