

KENNY MUZIA

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BIOGRAPHY

BACKGROUND

Kenny Muzia grew up in a government integration housing project in Winnipeg, MB (Stradford St.) and spending his summers on Six Nations Reserve No.40 in Ontario. He lived an extraordinary and colourful childhood—raised by a loving and hardworking Mother and a larger-than-life Mohawk/Cayuga father (a residential school survivor). The nature of his early life formed a lasting understanding of the beauty of indigenous culture and human connection. However, living on Stradford St. in Winnipeg exposed him to situations that forced him to grow wise with understanding and experience way beyond his years. He became first-hand-familiar with profound realities of struggle on a regular basis... poverty, race, addiction & recovery. These experiences have shaped who he is, how he performs and the music he writes.

INSPIRATION

At the age of 6 Kenny was given two CDs... Buffy St. Marie's, "Up Where We Belong" and Elvis Presley's gospel album, "Amazing Grace". He accredits the two albums as the initial spark in his passion for music, even though he experienced hardship in the world around him, he found meaning and hope in the music. Kenny's mother was closely involved in the Winnipeg music scene during the 1970s–90s, Kenny's biological father—an American Mohawk from the Nation at Akwesasne— James Blease founded the band Cahoots. Until later in life, the only evidence that he had of his father, was a VHS tape of a National Bud

Light Talent Search Contest. This tape featured his father's winning performance of "Better Man" by Clint Black. Music built a place in his mind and heart for the father he didn't know.

PROMISE AS A YOUNG PERFORMER

At a family Christmas gathering a 13-year-old INSPIRATIONKenny asked his uncle to teach him the guitar. His uncle taught him three chords E, A & B7... and that was it. Two years later he showed tremendous talent as a young performer winning multiple talent search contests including the C-FRY RADIO Talent Search, Stonewall Quarry Days Talent Search, and an NCI talent search contest.

MUSIC

As a growing artist Kenny was heavily influenced by the local country music scene in Winnipeg including; the Henry Brothers, Clint Dutiaume, Darren Lavallee, Al Desjarlais and Lionel Desjarlais, along with recordings that he could find of his fathers band—*Cahoots*.

Kenny's musical style has been influenced by Vince Gill, Rodney Crowell, Ricky Skaggs, Glen Campbell, the Statler Brothers, Garth Brooks, Enrique Iglasias, Bon Jovi, Merle Haggard, Hank Williams, Sam Cooke, Marty Stuart and many more.

Like his father, Ken became an entertainer, roaming the prairies of Canada. Currently carving out a place for himself in the Alberta country music scene. He is a lead vocalist, a harp player and guitarist. These skills showcased as a solo artist and playing lead rhythm guitar, lead guitar and harp for Canadian Idol runner up Jaydee Bixby, the Melissa Mikinny Band, the Dirty Bender Band, Bob Donaldson, the Dead Reeds, and other independent Canadian country artists. He has been involved in the Winnipeg music scene as a solo artist through the city as well as many MMF (Manitoba Metis Federation) productions. Since moving to Alberta he has continued to build relationships with many artist in Alberta.

Kenny's high clear vocals, spicy guitar leads and shiny personality captivate any audience. He loves to perform country ballads, classic country, honky-tonk, bluegrass, gospel, rock jams, and high slow-simmering ballads.

AWARDS

C-FRY TALENT SEARCH 2007 // First STONEWALL QUARRY DAYS 2008 // First NCI TALENT SEARCH 2008 // Second

SPONSORS & ENDORSEMENTS

Buckle Vodka // 2023 Addetto Menswear // 2023 Callioux Law // 2023 27 Friends Productions // 2023 Fiveight Design // 2023

BANDS

Kenny Muzia // 2003— Lead vocals, guitar

Jaydee Bixby // 2018— Lead guitar, vocals

Dirty Bender Band // 2011–15 Lead guitar

Melissa Mikenney Band // 2008–12 Lead guitar

RESIDENCIES

The Mill by Sawmill, Edmonton Saturday Night Live presented by the Sawmill, Addetto Menswear January–March 2023

Stanhope, EdmontonNashville Nights
presented by Buckle Vodka
February 2023

Moonshiners, Stony PlainLocal artist in residence
2016–2020









PERFORMANCE DATES 2023-24

Fulton Festival, Edmontonpresented by Fulton Community League
// August 3, 2023

Métis Days, Manitobapresented by St. Madeline Heritage Festival
// July 20, 2024

Midsummer Thursdays, Stony Plain presented by the *Town of Stony Plain June July August 2023* & 2024

Hidden Valley Stage, Parkland County presented by the Triangle Community // September 9, 2023 / Aug 11 2024

Thursday Plazza Series, St. Albert presented by Amplify St. Albert & the Arden Theatre // August 10, 2023

The Nickel, Hannah // June 20, 2024

The Ravenwolf Canada Day, Spruce Grove presented by Ravenwolf brewery // July 1, 2024

Kaffa Roastery, Edmonton presented by JCL productions // May 20, 2023

Halkirk Hotel, Halkirk // April 15, 2023

Nashville Nights, Edmonton presented by Buckle Vodka and Stanhope // All Saturday's February 2023

NEXT 5 Brewery, Devon
// February 23, 2024 , August 24, 2024

Saturday Night Live, Edmontonpresented by The Mill // Resident musician
January–March 2023

Castor Winterfest, Castor // February 11, 2024

Oil Country Taphouse, Drayton Valley // January 20

LIVE SAMPLES

It Takes a Village CFRY (Radio 2023) Rhea March // Kenny Muzia Live Plaza Series, Arden Theatre (Live 2023) Kenny Muzia - Bring it On Home Cover Addetto Sessions Live at the Mill (2023) Bob Donaldson & Kenny Muzia Wayback Series (2023) Kenny Muzia - My Rifle My Pony and Me Cover Sangudo Summerfest, Sangudo (Live 2022) Kenny and Friends - Go Rest High OTM Moonshiners, Stony Plain (Live 2019) Kenny Muzia - Take it to the Limit Cover **Dogpatch Music Festival (Live 2019)** Kenny Muzia, Javdee Bixby, Stephane Drisdelle Hot Shotz Music Series (Live 2019) Kenny Muzia - Flowers Original **Henry Brothers Reunion (2019)** Kenny Muzia - Good Hearted Woman Cover

FESTIVALS

Métis St. Madeline Heritage2024Dogpatch Music Festival, SK2019, 2023Summerfest, AB2021, 2022Jackfish Lake Music Festival2016-2019Mudfest, AB2019Countryfest, MB2015

REFERENCES

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