

SOUND WAVES

**Brent's "Disc"overies: by Brent Jeffries
Georgian Bay Folk Society**

KENNY BUTTERILL- Just A Songwriter

"Just A Songwriter" is the newest CD from one of North America's best-kept secrets. Kenny Butterill is that secret. He is everything a songwriter should be, which makes the title of the album ironic and the title cut as well.

"Cause I like being a songwriter. I don't fit the showbiz scene.
I don't deal well with the road and I'd die in the Nashville machine.
Yeah, I like being just a songwriter. Blending music with the words.
Working on my own rainbow. Trying to be heard"
--Kenny Butterill from "Just A Songwriter"

He is clever and original, both in his sound and songwriting. He is a sensitive writer with a humorous side, too! The funny bone gets a workout on "Vegetarian Dead Cow Blues" and the title cut. His sensitive side comes out in "My Austin Angel" and "Is There More?" He is capable of taking his listener down a dusty backroad through the mountains or walking down the beach near his friend's beach house. He tells of making love in L.A and lost loves in e-mails. His sound is effortless and his words echo off the strings of his guitar like, a voice in a canyon, rich and natural.

This songwriter was born in Ajax and raised in Ottawa and Central Ontario's cottage country, but has made the Santa Cruz Mountains of Northern California his home for over 10 years. His music is thought provoking and at the same time calming. This is an album to be listened to while sipping a cold beverage in the hot sun on the deck at your summer place. The fourteen tracks all tell a story. Stories of love, heartache, death and dreams. And there are stories of heroes. The track "The Townes You Left Behind" is a tribute to the great Townes Van Zandt who died in 97. His songs, have been covered by great artists, like Willie Nelson, The Cowboy Junkies and, Emmylou Harris. In an interview with Country Music News, Kenny states that he "originally wrote it a few months after Townes died and he experienced one of those times that songwriters all too rarely have, where I felt compelled to write and the song just came out, quite quickly....it felt almost mystical." The song is a great contribution to the album.

Butterill writes all the songs on the album and appears as Producer in the album credits. What the listener gets is a great production piece filled with soulful blues, gentle jazz riffs and a folksy Americana spirit that strums magnificently from track to track. It is surprising that Butterill does not like to tour, preferring to stay close to his home and guitar, for surely he would be playing to sold out audiences! However given the choice of touring town to town...or sitting on the decks of Santa Cruz, I would probably take the decks, too!

Canadian Festival attendees will recognize two of the voices and instrumentation's on the disc. Willie P Bennett and Ray Bonneville appear with Norton Buffalo and fourteen other studio musicians. It is apparent to this listener that a great friendship was made when Bennett and Bonneville dropped by the Butterill residence. Willie P's mandolin playing is stunning, as usual and Bonneville delivers magnificent electric guitar on "Canadian Road Trip" and "Just a Songwriter". At times Butterill sounds like Dire Straits lead vocalist Mark Knopfler, which some listeners may find distracting, however "Straits" fans (like myself) will not be disappointed by the similarity. This is a must have addition to your CD library. To learn more about Kenny or to get his music, visit www.NoBullSongs.com

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Kenny please visit NoBullSongs.com
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