

# Carrie Catherine back on the Prairies

**Carrie Catherine**

(with Jason Plumb)

Saturday  
The Exchange

By **GERRY KROCHAK**  
for the **Leader-Post**

**Y**ou can take the girl out of the prairies

While the Prairie Pixie seems an apt description of Carrie Catherine, the Saskatoon singer-songwriter packed up and moved to Victoria for a spell, but magically found herself right back where she belonged less than a year later.

"We're kind of coming back just in time for the winter," she says, laughing. "We say we're starting a whole new migration trend of wintering on the Prairies. Some people have definitely questioned our sanity.

"What can I say? I love it here. Being in Victoria ... It's beautiful and we certainly did love the mild temperatures. But it was also really boring. It lacked the character and characters of the Prairies. I guess I love the mood that the extreme temperatures here push us into."

If there is such a thing as a prairie sound, Catherine may or may not fit the description. If you could, try and imagine Diana Ross growing up in Saskatchewan without the pretensions and you may get a feel for Catherine's spin on green-eyed soul.

It's a sound and a style that is celebrated on *Venus Envy*, arguably the best Saskatchewan independent release of 2005.

"Soul and R&B are definitely things I heard growing up and, honestly, had forgotten about," she says. "You hit those teen years and you get whisked away into bad Top 40 music for a while. That was the vacuum of my musical education.

"We let the songs and the sound evolve really organically. When it came to the songs themselves, there was one word that kept recurring that really resonated with me and it was: soul. It was because I wanted to deliver a really soulful performance. It ended up meaning that the songs themselves took on elements of the genre. When it went that direction, we knew it felt right and we decided to run with it."

Although her parents may wonder how a master's degree in English has translated into songwriting, recording and hopscotching the country in a tour van, Catherine has, indeed, carved out a niche with her sophomore release. (She released her debut, *Out The Car Window*, as Carrie Horachek).

Prospective new fans and friends would be well-advised to take in Saturday evening's CD release party and concert — a double-bill which will also feature Jason Plumb — at The Exchange.

"I'm really happy with where the live show and the band are at right now," Catherine says. "I've always loved performing and I've been doing a lot of touring. I guess I'm just feeling like the whole identity of the record ... this whole Motown feel and this journey into soul ... we've figured out how to translate it on to the stage.

"I really try and convey the songs in their truest form. The closer I get, the more exciting it becomes."

For more on Carrie Catherine, please log on to [www.carriecatherine.com](http://www.carriecatherine.com)



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