

Alex Hickey comes home with the release of her third album, *Blackbirds*

Release Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2012

Launch Party: Saturday, September 22, 2012, West Dublin Community Hall, West Dublin



Art credit: The Caretaker by Lynn Misner; Photo credit: S.A. Ernst

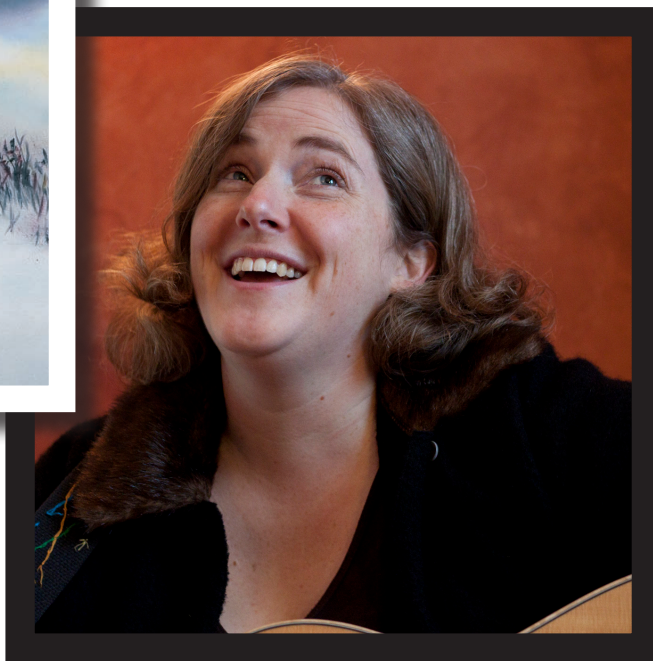


Photo credit: Karen Runge

On the day Rob Ford was elected Mayor of Toronto in 2010, Alex Hickey posted on Facebook: “Doesn’t anyone out home have a room they could rent me?” and eight weeks later she was back home in Nova Scotia, living on the South Shore in West Dublin.

Her home-coming has been full of musical inspiration for this frank and funny songwriter. She convened with musical collaborators, Jude Pelley (Pennybrook), Alan Jeffries (Olympic Symphonium, David Myles Trio), Jordi Comstock (five time musician of the year nominee, Music Nova Scotia) and Jay Crocker at the Old Confidence Lodge in Riverport, NS and they placed the task of producing and mixing in Diego Medina’s capable hands. Additional vocals and piano were contributed by Jennah Barry (The O Darling); while Tom Terrell (The Modern Grass Quartet) makes a special guest appearance, singing on the duet, *Moonshine and Mischief*.

The result is an expert, joyous folk record, with serious bluegrass and country leanings, a couple of great sing-along songs and three *a cappella* songs that sound like traditional classics, despite being new compositions.

There’s a song about shale gas extraction (*Can’t Be Rich On Shattered Land*), love songs, both doomed and hopeful (*Moonshine and Mischief*, *My Knees are Pushing 40*, *but my Heart’s Just 17*, *11 Kinds of Itchy*, *Blackbird*), and songs

celebrating the land (*Cellphone Service*, *Coming Home*) and lamenting the economical trials facing Nova Scotians (*River Road*). There’s a thoughtful tribute to renowned Nova Scotian Rug Hooker, Doris Eaton (*Doris’ Song*). There’s even a song about making out on the beach after missing the ferry ride home (*LaHave River Ferry*).

This is a deeply local record. Most of the musicians drove just a few kilometres to the recording studio. The painting on the album’s cover is *The Caretaker*, by Lynn Misner of Lunenburg’s Power House Gallery. Alex takes the concept of “Home” very seriously.

About Alex Hickey:

Alex Hickey is a Nova Scotian songwriter whose songs walk a delicate line between cynicism and a passionate love for the world. Clever and poignant, funny, heartbreaking and punch-to-the-guts honest, every CD and performance should come with a free packet of tissues.

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