

# Music

CD reviews, musician profiles,  
performances and more

BY DEBORAH THOMAS

## Softer solo

**Shanneyganock founder tries something different**



**Chris Andrews has released his first solo CD, *By The Hush*.**

**T**he funny guy from Shanneyganock has released a solo CD of ballads and only ballads.

Chris Andrews founded Shanneyganock in 1996 and since then he and bandmate Mark Hiscock have been labelled a “party band.”

Andrews is out to change that distinction — at least as a solo artist — on his new CD *By The Hush*.

“We’re much more indepth than people think,” he says of Shanneyganock.

### **Made to sing ballads**

“I feel more comfortable singing ballads,” says Andrews. “... because they’re nicer stories, beautiful songs, (and the) melodies are nice and relaxing.”

Andrews has the voice for it, too. His deep, throaty sound seems as if it was made to sing ballads, and the CD is an easy listen.

“A lot of songs I have written and enjoyed singing, I couldn’t do them with the band,” he says. “When people come to see Shanneyganock, they want to dance and clap. There are a lot of songs I love to sing but I wasn’t able to.”

Andrews grew up in Logy Bay just east of St. John’s. His father used to invite some of the “guys” from Irish

bands like the Sons of Erin over for a drink every now and again. It was then that a young Andrews got the glint in his eye for performing. Although music was always played on the stereo at home, no one in his family played instruments so Andrews' experience in music was minimal.

He was envious of the glamorous life that he saw his father's friends (the Sons of Erin) as living and wondered if he could have the same for himself.

In high school, he and some friends decided to start up a band. They called it Redcliff and Andrews learned how to play the guitar in two weeks, and he started to sing. Redcliff didn't go very far, but Andrews' interest in a musical life had been peaked. In 1996, Andrews started up Shanneyganock, playing the bar circuit and at festivals. He was living the life he had wanted so many years earlier. But the life has taken its toll.

"You mature ... at first it was all about parties and there was beer everywhere, now we don't drink when we play," he says. "There are certainly glamorous sides to it, down sides too. There can be a lot of heartbreak."

Andrews tries to always look at the bright side of things. He appreciates the fact he's played in some wonderful places across Canada (the top of the CN Tower in Toronto for one). He's also had the chance to meet many Newfoundlanders around Canada who come to the shows because they're homesick. It makes Andrews realize he really is lucky to be able to make a life at home in Newfoundland doing something he loves.



**Chris Andrews is from Logy Bay.**

As a solo artist, he'll work his new schedule around Shanneyganock's. He has no intention of leaving the band, but does want to diversify somewhat. Don't look for him at any of the local pubs around the province. Andrews won't be taking his solo work down that route. He says the music is too mellow for the bar scene, but he's thinking about a "soft-seater" tour that could see him participating in singer/songwriter circles or a tour of the arts and culture centres. He says he has had interest from other bands to have him open up for them, but he won't elaborate on just who — at least not yet (It's not Shanneyganock). Meantime, he and Shanneyganock will be touring around Newfoundland this summer playing festivals.

Andrews will gauge the sales of *By The Hush* before he decides whether or not to pursue the solo career further and release another CD somewhere down the road.

"This is listening music, stories for people to listen to," he says of his CD. "I just want people to sit back and listen to the music." ◆

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