

The Devils Half Acre

BAND STORY

"“ He may be the happiest he’ s ever been, but Chase Ross (known in songwriting circles as The Devil’ s Half Acre) is at his best when weaving a story of love lost or unrequited. Layered over thoughtful guitar, Ross’ vocals lilt gently with just a hint of a bluegrass twang echoing around the edges.” –Angela Hickman, <http://booksunderskin.blogspot.com>, 2010 I was born and raised in Kentville, Nova Scotia, a historical former railroad town situated in the Annapolis Valley. History writes that in the 1800’ s, prohibited rum running and prostitution happening out of a hotel owned by a distant relative had earned that corner block the grim nickname of The Devil’ s Half Acre. I had always heard the name thrown around by my elders, and just as much had always felt connected to it. It wasn’ t until I found out the family connection to the outlaw history of my hometown that I realized how real the attraction was. It took me a while to find my niche, and to settle on which influences really did influence, and which ones merely bounced off my leather skin. Artists like Bob Dylan and Neil Young are immediately recognizable in my sound. The harmonica sitting on a rack hanging around my neck is a familiar throwback to what they did. The raw presentation and powerful authority that such a simple combination of guitar, harmonica and voice can hold over a crowd sends chills up my spine. Those things run secondary to words and stories. Good or bad, it is heartbreak, one soul left ragged and ruined by the leaving of another that harkens to the old country which spins from black circles and fills my apartment most mornings and afternoons. My writing, performance and composition began to hit its stride



STATS

Visits	Plays
645	1
Streams	Downloads
1	0

Featured Songs

- 1  Sweet Kalina Folk
- 2  Leavin' Here Blues Folk-Rock

and composition began to fit its style when just like a thief quietly sliding open a basement window and whispering a manifest of sorrow and sad poetry through the air vents, Townes Van Zandt found his way into my fingers, my internal songbook and my vocal chords. Van Zandt was like no one I had ever heard. He taught me to be honest, fiery, untouchable yet just as real as the sunburn on your back. His was a pedigree that wasn't impossible to attain. He wrote beautiful poetry that wasn't reaching. He didn't write backward to find a rhyme. He was the Hank Williams of his era, a simple, edgy and clever wordsmith who didn't hide his timid nature on stage. For some, this would be reason to stop, everything you could have hoped to do was done ten-fold by this guy. For me, a fresh path of hot pavement had been cleared and I was going to take what he'd done and go where he had yet to be. "...On stage, Ross is a storyteller. Although he knows his way around a guitar and plays with the kind of deft passion that would bring a smile to any minstrel, Ross' real instrument is his voice" –Angela Hickman, <http://booksunderskin.blogspot.com>, 2010 My voice is strongest and highlighted with minimal guitar work. My chord progressions are simple, my picking delicate and careful. The influence of my record collection is evident in the way I write and play, and the slight twang in my voice only gets stronger the slower I play. As a solo musician I show strength in the intimate venues, cafes, folk environments, and songwriter circles. As a diverse and dynamic musician I have the privilege and ability to gather a band that allows for the songs to take on a different sound and feeling, and also allows me to play to a different crowd and venue, bars, fire-halls, and parties. I trust the musicians I play with as much as they follow their trust in me as a front man. The mark of a true professional is in the ability to adapt and remain true to

the ability to adapt and remain true to their focus. I am able to show this through the two sides to my music. With this added dynamic, my songwriting broadens, my focus develops, and my musicianship improves. I am able to reach different ears, and access different audiences. "As he continues to develop as a singer-songwriter, Ross is working toward telling different kinds of stories about love, loss and the comfort of a walk through the woods. But no matter what direction Ross' lyrics take him in at first, eventually they lead him home, to The Devil' s Half Acre, which is as good a name for the heart as any." -Angela Hickman, <http://booksunderskin.blogspot.com>, 2010. My goals, whether they be as The Devil' s Half Acre, or simply as the songwriter Chase Ross, is to progress as a strong talent in the folk-rock/country genre. I want to earn the respect of my peers as someone who deeply respects themselves and the art that they create. There would be no greater feeling of success then being looked upon for my hard work and passion. As I constantly reach back to my history as the natural path already laid out for me, I continue to work on becoming a poetic paragraph in the story of The Devil' s Half Acre. -Chase Robert Ross, 2010"

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