

Wine, Wind, and Sea

WHITECAPS

“flavours of lemon and herbs...
clean and crisp”

– John Schreiner, *On Wine*

PINOT NOIR

“light, smooth in texture and
brimming with sweet berry
fruit... In a word, pretty”

– The Globe and Mail



PHOTOGRAPHY BY RENEE ANDOR

CREATING A MUSICAL CONNECTION

Heather Hutchison says creating a connection between music and listeners is what making music is about for her.

The 26-year-old folk-pop singer, songwriter and pianist recently released the five-song EP *Where the Ocean Meets the Sand*, which she hopes listeners will feel an emotional connection to.

“I think musicians, for the most part, we share our music with the world — it’s a really vulnerable experience — but we do it because we want that human experience and

Heather
Hutchison

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Beautiful MUSIC

that human connection,” says Hutchison. “We want people to say, ‘Yes, I can totally relate to that. I’ve been there too.’”

“Emotion is so universal, that maybe I lived a different experience and wrote that song feeling that emotion, but somebody else could relate to that song because they felt the same thing, not necessarily because they lived the same experience.”

Hutchison’s life experiences are likely to be quite different than most, as she’s been blind since birth. She hasn’t let her lack of sight stop her from creating vivid physical descriptions through the words in her songs, a skill she gained from her love of reading.

“Words and descriptions of things have always fascinated me,” she says, noting these written descriptions have given her a good idea of how physical objects look. “I actually find it really enjoyable to try to put together descriptions of things in new and interesting ways that will make sense to someone who is actually seeing them.”

Hutchison has always been interested in music. She started taking piano lessons at five, and joined a children’s choir as soon as she was old enough, at the age of seven. She also recalls recording songs on cassettes when she was a child.

She released her first album, *Hello*, when she was just 16 years old. Her second album, *Charades*, was released when she was 19.

“There’s nothing that shows me how I’ve changed more than listening back to those (first two albums),” says Hutchison. “You’re kind of in that stage (in life) where you’re a little bit angry at the world and you want everybody to know about it... So, they’re maybe a little more personal to me, whereas I think the new one is still very personal but it’s maybe more accessible to everyone, the experiences are maybe more universal.”

Though the title track of *Where*

the Ocean Meets the Sand is about her wedding with husband Jordan Mann in Comox’s Filberg Park, some of her latest album is about her experiences living in Peru.

Hutchison and Mann spent about a year teaching English in Lima, and Hutchison notes she enjoyed Peru and its people so much she didn’t want to leave, but it would be too hard to make a living on a Peruvian salary.

She points out the meaning behind *Ice Cream in Central Park* is often mistaken by listeners, and the song is really about her time in Peru.

“Lots of people think it’s talking about a love affair with a person but it’s actually talking about a love affair with a country,” she explains. “And Central Park isn’t the Central Park in New York; it’s actually the Central Park, Parque Kennedy, in Lima.”

The five-song EP was released January 23 and features violinist Trent Freeman and guitarist Alexander Flock, among others. *Where the Ocean Meets the Sand* has received radio play across the country, and though Hutchison’s earlier work has had radio play, this EP has received the most.

“It’s pretty exciting,” says Hutchison. “We put in all the footwork and everything, but to actually see it all come to fruition is really exciting.”

Hutchison grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. She moved to Vancouver to attend Vancouver Community College, where she earned a diploma in jazz and contemporary music in 2010.

Now that Hutchison and Mann have settled in the Comox Valley, Hutchison says they have no plans to leave. Mann plays bass guitar in *Where the Ocean Meets the Sand* (EP) and the couple also plays as a duo and can be seen performing around town together.

For more information, and to check out Hutchison’s music, visit www.heather-hutchison.com.

by Renee Andor | Special to the Comox Valley Record



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