



# SWEET POTATO BROWN

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~ COUNTRY . FOLK . ROCK

Rich blues spice, true country sugar, and the salt of rock n' roll flavour **Shelley 'Sweet Potato' Brown's** secret ingredient; songs unearthed from her deep rooted heart in music.

*"thrilling, with the down and dirty style of Steve Earle" ~ Bill McNamara*

An outlaw, rarely driving within musical highway lines, this country girl at heart coolly pairs her own crafted original songs with simmering interpretations of favourite folk, alt-country, blues and rock specialties. On stage, Sweet Potato Brown appears in many varieties; as an engaging soloist on vocals, guitar and harmonica, or accompanied by guitarist Paul Morelli (known as JMNZ), or with the full kicking band known as 'The Troublemakers' with Harold Anderson on bass and Andy Okell on drums.

Sweet Potato Brown's debut, self-titled EP is a five song dirt road ramble, sitting shotgun in a '59 Cadillac. Taking the top down to reveal an unsolved murder mystery, a lonesome country shuffle and a high-heeled motorcycle ride fueled by the blues, Shelley serves up her original collaborations with fearlessness and honesty. Shelley's tribute to her father's truck driving adventures, "This Highway Talks To Me" trusts that when you share your fears and dreams with the road, if you listen closely, it whispers back.

Transplanted to Vancouver Island from Ontario for over three decades, Shelley's signature sound was cultivated from the ground up. For many years, Shelley played upright and electric bass for bluegrass, folk, jazz and country bands throughout the Cowichan Valley and beyond. Known for her impeccable timing, natural groove, and vivid harmony vocals, Shelley is a highly sought after side-person both on stage and in session recordings. She's performed as part of Puzzleroot, The Flying Accusations, Wiseacre and joined Rick Scott and David Essig on a trio tour through Alberta in 2011. Shelley was a primary element with Tuber, an original funk band that performed at events and festivals across Vancouver Island. She has recently re-joined Skellig, the fiddle driven rock band from Ladysmith, playing bass and

adding her voice to their powerhouse sound. She also sings and plays guitar as one half of the folk/bluegrass duo Song Sisters.

Shelley stepped from the shadows of the backline into the spotlight as Sweet Potato Brown in 2013. She is a veteran performer at the '39 Days of July Festival in Duncan. She also can be found playing locally at neighbourhood pubs like the Saltair, and she is always a hit at farmer's markets in Duncan and Cedar. This hot potato will be tossed from venue to venue across Vancouver Island as Sweet Potato Brown will be appearing at several festivals throughout the summer and aims to bring her savoury sounds to Ontario soon.

She ain't no side dish - Sweet Potato Brown is the main course!

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