



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.

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. 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. Peeling out of the driveway with "*'59 Cadillac*", the EP leads off with this alt-country rumble written by Teddy Morgan. Two songs on the EP are co-writes with lyricist Dennis Siddon, "*Molly Justice*" and "*No Arms To Hold Me*". "*Molly Justice*" shivers with the true murder mystery of 15-year old Molly Justice, a case which remains unsolved since 1943. "*No Arms to Hold Me*" echoes classic country from the 1960's evoking sounds of the Patsy Cline era. 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.

The EP was recorded at The Woodshop Studio in Duncan, B.C. by producer, engineer and musician Zak Cohen, over sessions taking place in 2011 and 2016. Drummer Pat Steward and bassist Rob Becker provided expert rhythmic foundation for Paul Morelli's guitar precision and Thomas Kinsell on organ, bringing Shelley's expressive vocal to the foreground of playful and driving arrangements.

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. 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. 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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