

For Immediate Release
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Art Gallery of Hamilton *performance* series presents
UNDER THE COVERS CABARET
Featuring Lori Yates, Shy-Anne Hovorka, Alejandra Ribera,
Queen Cee, Terra Lightfoot, NiLLA, Gina Milanese,
Charissa Pavlou and Jennifer Lockman

Art Gallery of Hamilton *performance* series is pleased to present an evening featuring established and emerging women singers performing their favourite cover songs in **Under the Covers Cabaret** on **Friday, June 24 at 8 pm** at the AGH, 123 King Street West, downtown Hamilton.

Renowned artists Lori Yates, Shy-Anne Hovorka, Alejandra Ribera, Queen Cee, Terra Lightfoot, NiLLA, Gina Milanese and Charissa Pavlou (along with pianist Jennifer Lockman), each perform cover versions of their favourite songs. Encompassing a variety of genres, each artist brings their own individual style and interpretation to classic compositions.

The performance is held in the AGH's intimate Joey and Toby Tanebaum Pavilion. Cash bar available.

Tickets are \$20 for AGH Members, \$22 for students and seniors and \$24 for general admission. Tickets may be purchased online at www.artgalleryofhamilton.com, at the AGH during Gallery hours or by phone at 905.527.6610, ext. 232.

AGH performance is supported by Canadian Heritage. The AGH also gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Hamilton, Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

For further information, please visit www.artgalleryofhamilton.com

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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Artist Bios

Lori Yates has been a mixed bag of tricks since day one, the cowgirl singing in the punk clubs . She is the epitome of alt-country long before the phrase existed. A city kid with a pure country heart.

Born in Oshawa, raised in the Toronto suburb of Downsview, Lori is a "first generation mall babe" having spent her formative years running wild in the aisles of Yorkdale Mall. She was weaned on Dolly Parton, Pink Floyd, Tanya Tucker and Suzi Quattro and cut her teeth at The Turning Point, Larry's Hideaway with her punky new wave band, The Last Resorts.

Lori then headed downtown and formed Rang Tango. They were part of the fertile Queen West music scene of the mid 80's that gave birth to Blue Rodeo, Cowboy Junkies and Handsome Ned. Scooped up as a solo artist by Sony Nashville, *Can't Stop the Girl* was released worldwide in 1989. She toured with Dwight Yoakum, Steve Earle, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Big Sugar. Her first introduction to Nashville was a 2 am demo session at Cowboy Jack Clement's studio, produced by Bob Johnston.

In Nashville, Lori co-wrote with legendary writers Don Schlitz, Guy Clark, Matraca Berg and Wendy Waldman. In Los Angeles, Lori recorded a duet with Gregg Allman for the Patrick Swayze movie, *Next of Kin*.

In 1993, Lori signed to VirginMusicCanada and released *Breaking Point*. Produced by Colin Linden and John Whynot with harmony vocals by legendary Rick Danko (The Band) and Jim Cuddy (Blue Rodeo). She toured with Blue Rodeo, Jan Arden, Colin James and Faith Hill. Lori was nominated for a Juno and CCMA award.

In 1996, she released her second VirginMusicCanada CD *Untogether* a complete artistic departure. She teamed up with trip-hop trio Opium Concepts to create an ethereal soundscape. Returning to her roots, Hey Stella! was formed in 1998. Their debut CD, garnered them #1 band in *NOW Magazine's* readers poll.

In 2001, Lori moved to Hamilton and took up a residency at the Corktown Tavern. This inspired a prolific period of songwriting and the newest chapter of Lori's musical career. Her *The Book Of Minerva* won her legions of new fans and awards. She is currently writing for a new CD, and counting the red-winged blackbirds on the QEW.

Gina Milanese

With her roots in the North and her home in the South, Gina Milanese has made her way across the Canadian landscape. Born in the Northern tree line of

Dryden, Ontario, Gina began singing at age 7 in her local church. At 19, she made her way to the Rocky Mountains where she began a professional career as the lead singer for various country cover bands, including Bullet Proof and Electric Cactus. She also won many awards for classical singing, and obtained a Bachelor Degree in vocal performance at the University of Calgary, where she also excelled in composition and began writing her own music.

In 2001, Hamilton became home for Gina and her family. It was here that she recorded her first CD and won a Hamilton Music Award for her debut album *She Shall Rejoice* in 2007. Gina continues to perform both opera and original songs.

Jennifer Lockman is a local pianist. She graduated with a Honours Bachelor of Music from McMaster University. She currently accompanies other professional musicians and students for concerts, recitals, and music exams. Jennifer also has a passion for composing and arranging, and she enjoys collaborating on original projects with a variety of performers. Currently Jennifer is the pianist for local ensemble Trio Arjento. They have performed often in the Hamilton and Toronto area for the last year, building a loyal fan base and a strong catalogue of original songs and unique arrangements of pop, folk, and jazz standards.

Terra Lightfoot is a singer/songwriter from Waterdown, Ontario. She is a multi-instrumentalist focusing on several musical projects including a Hamilton-based folk/country outfit called The Dinner Belles. Having received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council to create her debut album, Lightfoot is excited to promote her music across the country in 2011.

Queen Cee's career has been filled by doing many musical gigs, singing in R&B groups, lead singing for different bands and doing background vocals for artists such as Motion and Divine Brown. She's had success landing a major role in the Broadway musical *The Lion King*; experience as Top 3 in Global's reality show, *Popstars – The One*, in 2002 and was even selected as a featured up-and-coming on Much Music's *Special Superstar 101* in 2004. Throughout, she continued her own solo gigs. Fast forwarding to 2008, Queen did a two-city tour as the lead role of Deena Jones in the theatre production of *Dreamgirls* with Theatre Aquarius and Manitoba Theatre in Winnipeg, and then released her debut album, *Space & Time*. Her debut album landed her 5 nominations at the 2008 Hamilton Music Awards, walking away with Best R&B/Soul Recording of the Year. Her track *Rest Your Mind* is getting run on Flow 93.5 and you can check out her debut video for *Hey Brotha* on youtube and her Myspace music page. Aside from singing, Queen Cee is a community activist focusing on the empowerment of women and girls, while promoting multiculturalism. She is the director of two organization initiatives: a women's empowerment initiative called *When Sistahs Get Together* and a girls self-esteem initiative called *Be-You-tiful Girls Club* for ages 7-16. Queen Cee was also the 2010 recipient of the YWCA's Women of Distinction award for Arts and Creative Energy.

Charissa Pavlou is an up-and-coming singer/songwriter from Burlington. She picked up the guitar three years ago and since then, her love and passion for music continues to grow. In September 2009, she caught everyone's attention at the Canadian National Exhibition Rising Star Talent Competition in Toronto, where not only did she receive the Junior Championship title, but also went on to secure all-round Grand Champion as well. Last November, Charissa placed in the top three at the Hamilton Music Awards/Arcelor Mittal Dofasco Rising Star Search. She is currently working on writing and recording original material. In addition to her participation in various school talent shows, she has performed in events around town, private functions, fundraisers, and is often seen playing at a local coffee house.

NiLLa

Currently based in the Hamilton area, NiLLa impresses crowds with her production, lyricism and presence on stage. In 2010, NiLLa, performed with DL Incognito, MiC KING, Grand Analog, Miles Jones, RaSouL, Lee Reed, Mindbender, Canadian Winter and Magnum KI. NiLLa was also invited on tour with California's own Abstract Rude (Rhymesayers Ent., Project Blowed) for the Candian leg of *Rejuvemaple/Awful Truth*, a solid contribution to NiLLa's musical progress. Her roster includes headlining Hamilton's *Mayday Festival*, appearing at *C+C Music Fest* and Toronto's week long hip-hop celebration, *Manifesto*. At year's end, NiLLa was the honoured recipient of Best Rap/HipHop Recording of the Year at the Hamilton Music Awards for her debut album, *From The Ground UP*, a blessing this artist had never imagined. In 2011, be on the look out for new music coming from this fresh emcee, including local and international collaborations, teaser EP's and a second full length album.

Shy-Anne

Shy-Anne Hovorka is an Aboriginal singer/songwriter from Northwestern Ontario. She was also a nominee for the 2008 Aboriginal Music Awards (Best New Artist, Best Song Writer, and Single of the Year), and was nominated in 2009 for Folk album, and International album, Best Produced Album; and nominated in 2010 for Best Pop album, Single of the Year, Female Aboriginal Entertainer of the Year, Best Produced Album, and Best Music Video. Shy-Anne Hovorka has been singing since she was three, and performing since nine. Enjoying a wide variety of musical genres, Shy-Anne performs blues, pop, contemporary and folk music. Her first love is singing, but she also accompanies herself on piano.

Alejandra Ribera

Listen to her voice and her songs, her passionate approach to a wide variety of music, and her attitude on stage almost demands you pay attention. This is an artist with international roots — born in Toronto to an Argentinian waiter and a Scottish actress, raised in the heart of the city's gay village — and a style that reminds her listeners of Edith Piaf and Tom Waits and a louder, more powerful Joan Armatrading. Now in her mid-twenties, Ribera's disarming humour — on and off stage — contrasts with her frequently dark material, and an

unconventional life that's been full of adventures and misadventures, — travel, and jobs in science labs, burger-joints, and energy healing. The resumé includes four days at York University's vocal jazz programme (she dropped out to go to the mountains of Slovakia and study with a witch doctor...honest!) and childhood music studies (violin, viola, choral music). She had spent her teenage years listening to the music and the passion of such varied artists as Odetta, Mercedes Sosa and Jimmy Scott, and her evenings sneaking into gay piano bars and cabarets. These artists — and dozens more — shaped the multi-dimensional repertoire that is Alejandra's hallmark today, and is at the same time her greatest weakness and her greatest strength. For every listener who can't come to grips with an artist whose music would be at home at a jazz club, a world music gathering or a folk festival, there are dozens fascinated by her no-holds-barred approach to songs that cross genres and borders with almost frightening ease.