

JESSEN FARRELL BIOGRAPHY

Teenage guitar phenom **Lee Jessen** is an up and coming guitarist and songwriter who has been impressing local musicians for a number of years. He first began songwriting with Robert Farrell in 2014. Lee is also lead guitarist with Gary Slimmoore and the NewSoulProject, lead guitarist with Five+None and has acted as guest guitarist with a number of local and international bands.

Robert Farrell is a 20+ year veteran of the music industry with 8 solo albums to his credit. His songs have received radio play since his first release in 1997. Robert was described by Billboard Magazine's Larry LeBlanc as 'the greatest undiscovered guitarist in Canada' (1997). From 2000-2002, Robert was one of the top downloaded blues/rock artists on MP3.com, including a Top-20 world hit 'Hug Me, Squeeze Me'. Robert's music has been included in numerous TV projects and currently his songs have received internet and radio play in 50 countries world-wide.

In 2017 Lee and Robert finished recording their first full length all original CD '**Lift Me Up**', an album of adult alternative bluesy rock originals with smoky vocals and amazing guitar riffs. Their single 'Wishing Tree' played on local radio stations for 2 years.

Back Story:

Teen guitar phenom Lee Jessen picked up his first guitar at age 8 and had the good fortune of having veteran musician Robert Farrell as his first guitar teacher. From Lee's requests to learn Deep Purple's 'Smoke on the Water' to Jimi Hendrix's 'Hey Joe' and Eric Clapton's 'Layla', it became apparent that Lee had a love of bluesy classic rock, and Bob was the perfect mentor to teach it to him.

Within a year, Lee expressed an interest in wanting to play in a band, so Mom and Dad signed Lee up for a short-lived Saturday afternoon Jam Clinic at a local music school. At Lee's insistence, Mom, Dad and Bob began looking for a band for Lee to play in (unsuccessfully), at which point Bob, recognizing Lee's budding talent, suggested that Lee play a gig with

the Robert Farrell Band. Lee's first gig at age 11 was a huge success, but he still didn't have his own band to play in, so Lee's Mom entered him as a solo artist for the City of Ottawa Student Showcase (Battle of the Bands) in an effort to meet other similar-aged musicians. Lee ended up winning the Individual Performer Award with a prize package including recording time at a local studio leading to Lee's first original song 'Long Road'.

Soon after, Lee came up with the music and title for 'Wishing Tree' for which Bob arranged and added lyrics. The song was recorded and released late 2014, and in early 2015 was featured by a few local radio stations as well as added to the regular playlist of 2 local stations.

In the meantime, Lee and Bob continued playing live events and began what would turn out to be a regular Monday night gig at local watering hole Daniel O'Connell's for a period of 3 years!

They continued to play other gigs, live events and festivals, honing their playing and performing skills.

In 2015 Lee and Bob recorded a 5 -song EP of covers, again getting recognition and radio airplay on local stations.

In 2016, Lee and Bob wrote and recorded 'Right on Down the Line', again receiving positive feedback,

The duo then decided to write a few more songs for a complete album. '**Life Me Up**' was finished and released in late 2017.