

Lester Quitzau

Meet Canadian roots music artist, **Lester Quitzau**, a mellow guy who throws down a heavy groove. In a field where intangibles like feel and integrity count for so much, Quitzau has forged an exemplary career. Distilling the experience of the past 25 years of writing, recording and performing his music, Lester has come up with an approach that is his own. His unique style and fluidity on slide, acoustic and electric guitars, coupled with his well crafted songs and warm vocals, are the fruits of this musical journey. Many of his followers have watched his career with love and loyalty in what began as a solid traditional folk/ blues foundation, that has branched out into myriad of influences and a sound that is his own.

In **1988** The Yard Dogs released *Live at the Commodore*. This was followed in 1989 by *Take Time* which was released under Lester's own name.

In **1992** Lester won a **JUNO Award** for his contribution to *Saturday Night Blues*, a compilation album issued on Holger Petersen's Stony Plain Records label.

After a move to BC's West Kootenays in 1993, Lester returned to Edmonton in 1994 and released his first album, *Keep on Walking*: an elemental, all-acoustic approach to the blues.

This was followed by *A Big Love* in **1996**, a release that surprised listeners who might have been expecting a second instalment of the first album's straight-ahead acoustic blues. Where the first CD celebrated the traditional, the new one was mostly electric. And although the music was still blues-based, the album embraced experimentation and the wealth of possibilities an artist with Lester's talents could offer. The arrangements were multi-layered and often lush- effectively supporting and showcasing his arrival at a stronger and more confident level of song writing. His audience grew with the release of *A Big Love*, as did his stature among critics, resulting in his first **JUNO Award nomination**.

The Lester Quitzau Band set out on tour in 1996 in support of *A Big Love*, and for the first time he experienced the enthusiasm and respect of discerning European audiences. Over the next five years Lester was discovered by an ever-widening international audience, primarily through his year-in, year-out touring on the folk/roots and jazz and blues festival circuits.

In **2000** Lester partnered with **Bill Bourne** and **Madagascar Slim** to form **Tri-Continental**. Their first album won a **JUNO award** and the band toured extensively playing most of the major festivals across Canada.

In **2001** the Very Electric Trio released *So Here We Are*. Like *A Big Love*, the album was a success and received many accolades: "An absolutely stellar record" - Cathy Ennis (CKUA Radio Network).

2002 brought Lester's meeting, collaboration, and marriage to celebrated singer/songwriter Mae Moore. Their stripped down, acoustic recording *Oh My* was released in 2003, and met with success, garnering a West Coast Music Awards nomination.

In **2003** Lester collaborated with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, for two performances at the prestigious Winspear Centre.

Between **2002 and 2004 Tri-Continental** released three more albums, and toured Europe and Canada extensively until **2006**.

In **2009** *The Same Light*, was released, representing the culmination of Lester's years spent re-connecting with the land, but it's also a reflection of some serious musical wood-shedding and soul-searching done over that same period. The CD flows naturally from blues to ballads, and to truly inventive jazz improvisations.

These days Lester is busy with many projects including touring with **Tri Continental in Europe and music festivals in Canada in 2018**.