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Strings Attached

By

[T. M. Chartrand](#)

– 2011/06/03 Posted in: [Music](#), [New music](#)



I am not an events announcer. I know, I have stated this explicitly and stand behind this. Take this as it is at face value, because I am in one part announcing an event, but in another part letting you, dearest reader, know about an important and interesting recruitment into the creative talent that has come to our region. I am also completely jazzed to have been included into something that is going to thrum and resound with echo of its brilliance widely, as soon as it hits. Here, dear reader, is the chance for you to be brought in as well into something that holds vast potential to become something much, much greater.

It is my extraordinary and humble privilege to not announce (thank you [Echo](#), Snap, CTV, City, and several other media sources for that) but to talk about a delight of a person who is now working from Waterloo Region to bring new experience. Tomorrow night will be the first show in the region by [Michael Gabriel](#), a brilliant music talent. I did my homework. I went to his website, to all the feeds of his music available and sought out the extent of his product required to allow me to form a critical appraisal of the possibility of what I will witness tomorrow for a proper review.

Gabriel sat across from me in one of the local cafes and shared bits of his process, past and views of how he frames his creative endeavours. I brought some questions, informally, to the process but it was mostly directed naturally. Here lies a brilliant social entity but with depth beyond the casual conversation. In one sense, I had no doubt that I was speaking with a person of great passion, but also with someone who has the ability to welcome and intrinsically include an audience into an experience. I had read the reviews, read the interviews in other sources, and rested on the recommendation of trusted musical curators and in the essence of what I had heard through his well connected website, and other musical feeds. I entered into a world where music wasn't just something treated as a passive serving, but the critical portion of a connection with a group: between performer, and listener.

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Gabriel will perform tomorrow night with a carefully selected and well rehearsed ensemble at The Studio at Centre in the Square. What was created was a group that pulled all the instruments required to create orchestral harmony intertwined with the practice of scoring specifically, yet still maintaining a contemporary and lyrical show. From my listening of his music online, many bits recorded in L.A., here lies a musician who bring the essence of storytelling not just to the lyric but into the musicality itself. Gabriel understands music from the soul end. The music brings in notions of the composition, allowing the listener to be drawn in to the experience of listening itself.

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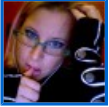
Gabriel started on stage, in music theatre. Through this he established a connectivity with audience through practice. Not a direct story teller on stage, Gabriel causes the suspension of disbelief through the music presented. The scores are built to include all parts (which include a representation of strings – violin, viola, cello; two backing vocalists; an acoustic guitar; himself on vocals and classical guitar) in synergy where no part is just supportive but instead is woven together to create an experience for the audience.

I am greatly looking forward to watching this new talent (new to us, not to the hoards of others who have enjoyed him in both Canada and US) stretch his creative talent in our most exciting soft seat venue. Check him out online but don't anticipate just the amazing voice and beautiful music you experience there. Come to the show at The Studio, and be ready for this music pulled into a greater direction in an exciting debut for a new young star in the making.

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About T. M. Chartrand

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Michael Gabriel

Posted June 3, 2011 at 7:35 PM

You have a gift with words and people! As mentioned – that conversation could have gone on for about a week! Thanks for your fluid and well crafted support!

<http://www.michaelgabrielmusic.com>

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