

Glenn Michael: "Heart on My Sleeve"

Fresh from California, Glenn Michael has moved his music to Somerville. He will be the music feature for the Somerville News Music and Poetry Series held at the Tir na nÓg Oct. 8. You can also catch him @ T.T. The Bear's in Cambridge Sept. 25 at 10 p.m. and at the open mic at The Burren Tuesday nights from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Michael moved to the Boston area at the end of July 2006 and currently resides in Somerville, where he said he has received a warm response to his music at the various open mics in the area. A Cheshire, CT native, Michael said he first moved to L.A. to try and make a career for himself in music and now is back on the east coast, where he is from, to turn his dream into a reality.

Michael previously served as the front man for the Los Angeles-based rock band Deepdown. After many high profile performances on the Sunset Strip and across the greater Southwest, including the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, TX, Michael decided to branch off on his own to express his acoustic, more intimate side.

"I cherish the time I spent with Deepdown, but for me, it was time to move on. L.A. is a very oversaturated music scene, and some great artists struggle and struggle, and get trapped there. Spiritually, I needed change," Michael said.

Michael's style reflects elements of early Counting Crows, Richard Ashcroft, and even Jew-



Dylan or Jeff Buckley, and sometimes, Mojave 3, Michael said, "My music is a little more edgy than a lot of acoustic stuff I hear, but it is warm and peaceful too. I sang more aggressively in Deepdown for eight years, so I think some of that carries over into my acoustic style." Also, "It feels more soulful and peaceful to me than the hard rock sound. I feel more artistic freedom doing my own thing, and I've been feeling very enlightened as well."

Michael said, "I've always loved singing and playing acoustic guitar. It's stripped down, it's raw, and it's powerful."

Michael said he hears melodies in his head wherever he is. He starts his writing by playing what is in his head on his guitar while making up words and melodies. He said, "A lot of that made up stuff creates the vision for the vibe of the song, and then I finalize the lyrics. It's all about

will touch other people too." Michael's melodies, grooves and lyrics address love and struggle, self-empowerment and addiction. He recently finished recording his 12-song first solo CD entitled "Heart on My Sleeve" and said he has set his sights on bringing his new material to Somerville and abroad.

The debut album projects an impressive variation and amalgamation of the styles that inspire Michael. In no. 1 "I'll Be Alright," the chords and overlaid vocals are soothing but with a bite and deeply textured, underlying cadence. No. 2, "Come Down (Rescue Me)," has a gritty feel, definitely rock, while no. 3,

"Falling Snow," has low toned guitar fingerings and a lush, sighing, crying melody line – a self-described "lullaby for the swaying trees" and "memories,"

No. 7, "All We Know," digs at your soul with passionate lyrics and vocals about expressing love and saying goodbye. Rhythmic strumming and a catchy, plucked intro begins "So Strange," no. 8, setting the stage for a driving chorus and tight verses fraught with details of perceptions gone awry. Michael waxes reflective with eerie effects and spoken words in no. 12, "Hope."

The CD was recorded while Michael was living in Studio City, CA from August to October 2005.

"My roommate had a really great home studio set up. I didn't rush it since I lived where I was recording. I had work around the neighbors, who would often interrupt my recording saying I was being too loud. All of the songs were written during that time period," he said.



**Chiem's
Corner**
**MUSIC
REVIEWS
&
EVENTS**