

Beth Portman & the Good Find

Beth Portman Biography

Beth Portman presents her personal perspective of life and love through original lyrics and engaging music, taking her audience on a musical journey that is happily nostalgic but never dated. Accompanying Portman is her 'Good Find' of musicians that complement her own performance on the ukulele. Instrumentation ranges from an acoustic bass and guitar duo to an expanded version with a female vocalist, who, along with Portman, incorporates percussion through suitcases, picnic baskets and mint boxes. Portman also performs in a solo presentation where she builds rhythmic layers with her luggage looper and suitcase contents. It's creative, playful and in the moment.

November 2016, Portman created *Take a Trip: A Musical Journey* for Fort Edmonton Park's Capitol Theatre. Inspired by Beth Portman & the Good Find's 2015 EP Release, *Take a Trip* this themed concert about trains, the prairies and the connections that bind us features original songs by Portman.

Beth Portman's musical interests are influenced by her love of early film. An award-winning animator, music played a major role in the creation of her two films for the National Film Board — *Cactus Swing*, with country music by Alberta's Great Western Orchestra, and *Fair Phyllis*, with a madrigal soundtrack featuring her lyrics. Portman is a founding member of the world-beat, a cappella sextet Juba, touring from Yellowknife to Ontario and Harare, Zimbabwe. She performed in the WW2-themed Home Front Cabaret as one member of *The Swingin' Sisters Club*, along with real sisters Bridget and Kate Ryan. The production toured British Columbia, the North West Territories and Alberta.

Beth Portman & the Good Find have performed for the Edmonton International Fringe Festival, Edmonton Streetcar Concerts, Vermilion Allied Arts Series, Bailey Theatre and on the Battle River Railway. As a solo artist Portman has performed at numerous cafe and house concert presentations as well as opening for the Good Lovelies at Horizon Stage and for Oh Susanna at the Nickelodeon Music Club. She has two recordings *Lovin'* and *Take a Trip*.

Spring 2018 Portman and her guitarist; Kevin Smith will be part of the *Artist on Board* Via Rail program entertaining passengers along the Edmonton to Toronto route. In April Beth Portman & the Good Find will also be part of the Arden Theatre's Matinee series.

The Good Find Biography

A 'good find' can be described as a delightful discovery that is unexpected. This is the perfect description for the fine musicians that accompany Beth Portman. A musical 'good find' — Kevin Smith on acoustic guitar, Thom Golub on acoustic bass, Kelly Collins on vocals and percussion — complements the energetic songstress with their laid back style.

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