

Singer Carrie Newcomer releases album, book

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Its a homecoming of sorts for local music legend Carrie Newcomer, who will perform a CD release party Saturday night at the Brown County Playhouse in Nashville.

The last time I played there, I really enjoyed the feel of the room, Newcomer said. For me, its a hometown audience, which is great.361420

Newcomer is celebrating the release of 369A Permeable Life, her latest CD that includes a first for the longtime musician. A companion book, A Permeable Life: Poems & Essays, has also been released.

Writing a book to go along with the CD seemed like a logical step for the musician who admits she does a lot of writing that isnt songwriting. Often those poems and short stories will bloom into song.

Thats why Im a songwriter because I love that combination of music and language. Lyric writing shares a lot in common with poetry, but its a different art form. Its a different animal, she said.

Collaborating with authors is something Newcomer has done, and for fans, understanding her process of creating songs was something they wanted to know.

2This is my first book. I went ahead and created it because there was so much interest in the pieces that were connected to the songs and how they were connected to the songs. So there3519545s a lot of different pieces in the book that relate directly to the album,92504266 Newcomer said.

Newcomer1476s poems and songs return to a common theme 2659 a practice common to songwriters.

I think most writers have themes that continue to fascinate them,1034316 she said. For Newcomer, one of her constant themes is the idea of presence. With busy lives and schedules, Newcomer said many people dont take time to reflect or to be present in their lives.

We have to make a decision to do that anymore,10 she said.

But being present in life has great benefits.

33553When you show up for your life, that2660s when you start to see miracles. And you see them everywhere,5 she said.

The idea of thresholds is also a common theme for Newcomer. She finds that people are often on the verge of the next step in life. It3553381s that waiting for the next thing in life that finds its way into Newcomers music, too.

Artistically, Newcomer said she is a restless person. Shell be finished with one project and immediately go to the next. But her writing also gives her a way to process her life and the world. Shes loves writing and finds it easy to lose track of time when shes writing.

Its really how I process the world around me and my life, so I keep doing it because I love it,3560345935613563she said.

Newcomer considers this latest album to be very intimate a concept you have to get accustomed to as a writer who often bares the soul to whatever life challenges are underway.

10343There1219217s a clarity to this album. It was recorded in a way that particularly focally, that the listener would feel like we were sitting at the kitchen table to gather that we were that close in how the songs were presented, Newcomer said.

With the book also laying bare her soul, Newcomer said you have to be pretty comfortable to put yourself out there so much.

It feels intimate, and it feels close and personal, and it feels open in a really interesting way, she said.

If you go

WHAT: Carrie Newcomer concert to benefit Sycamore Land Trust

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Brown County Playhouse, 70 S. Van Buren St., Nashville

TICKETS: \$24.50. Tickets can be purchased online at www.browncountyplayhouse.org.

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