

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY



David Porteous is an award winning Canadian solo singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, documentary filmmaker, audio/video engineer, photographer, graphic designer, comedy writer and retired magician originally from Toronto, Canada.

There are few artists who can legitimately call themselves professionals in multiple creative disciplines, and Porteous is one of those few.

Whether it's recording lead guitar in Portugal with Boz Boorer of Morrissey, filming and writing music on-location in a WWII-era foxhole, producing records for dozens of other artists, performing magic tricks for David Copperfield, playing guitar, bass, drums, mandolin, piano or singing, acting as a creative advisor to help children with reading disabilities, this Canadian artist is at home when and wherever he is being creative.

"...not only a talented singer/songwriter, but a talented filmmaker."
Janice Forsyth, BBC

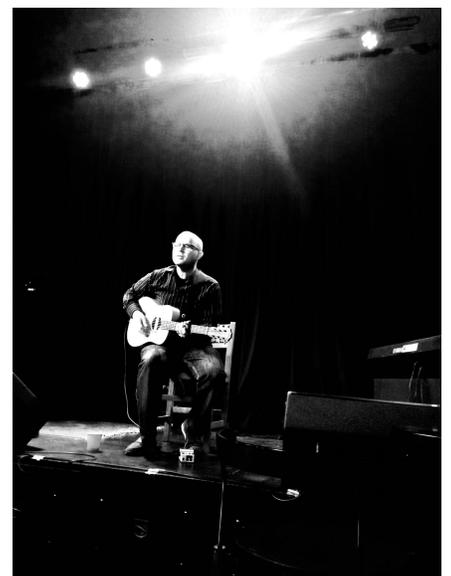
"This may be the hardest working musician you have never heard of."
Sal Treppiedi, The Great Beyond

"David Porteous has released another great CD."
Tegan and Sara

For Porteous, art isn't about fame, it's about living one's life purpose and unifying people through art. And in following through with that vision, he has amassed a career of remarkable accomplishments. But if you ask him, he feels like he's just scratched the surface.

Selected Achievements:

- First Prize in a National Anthem Song Contest
- Created the World's First Music Video for the Deaf
- NOW Magazine NXNE Music Festival "Critic's Pick"
- CBC Radio 2 debut at the age of 14
- Olympic Torchbearer Nominee for music and film creations
- Multiple Best Documentary Winner for the film "257 Down"
- Wrote music for the HBO pilot "Life"
- Billboard Song Contest - Honorary Mention
- Received full scholarship to obtain a BA in Documentary Film
- Honours Diploma in Sound Engineering at the Harris Institute
- Produced over 100 music releases for other artists and 30+ solo releases
- Indie Music Week Finalist
- Porteous' song "Darling" is the theme song of the popular **Decoding The Man** Podcast



David Porteous performing a showcase in Copenhagen, Denmark

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY

In 2015 Porteous released the **World's First Music Video for the Deaf** for his song "The Dirt". "As vibration is a common characteristic of both sound and light waves, I began by transcribing my music into colour," said Porteous, who was inspired to create the music video after befriending a deaf woman who taught him sign language. "I wanted to welcome the Deaf community into the experience of music by showing them how recorded music is made."



Interview and feature on CBC News

"It's so compelling and intriguing...it takes the musical experience to a whole other level"
Asha Tomlinson, Host of CBC News Now

"You don't need to be able to hear to enjoy this song"
The Daily What

Porteous has acted as a creative advisor for various opportunities including **Voxfactum**, a computer software company that aims to support children with reading disabilities. In addition, he has organized concerts and art projects to raise money and awareness for various charities and initiatives including **Sick Kids Hospital, the Daily Bread Food Bank, David Suzuki Foundation, Warchild, Poppy Scotland**, addressing the issue of racial imbalance in Toronto's City Council and by supporting initiatives to help end the alarming LGBTQ youth homeless crisis in the city.

As a musician, Porteous has toured extensively both solo and as a lead guitar player which has brought him across Canada, the US, the UK and Europe including performing at showcases at top music festivals such as NXNE (Toronto), CMJ (New York), Havnekulturfestival (Denmark), Music City North, Indie Music Week, Acoustic Edinburgh (UK), and Canadian Music Week. NOW Magazine selected Porteous as a Critics' Pick for his solo NXNE showcase performance.



Performing lead guitar during Canadian Music Week with Simeon RosS

David Porteous "left the crowd speechless."
The Shield (review of Canadian Music Week Showcase)

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY

Porteous is well known in the music community for his particularly unique and jaw dropping lead guitar skills. "I grew up listening to the greats - John Lee Hooker, Neil Young, Johnny Greenwood and Jimi Hendrix" said Porteous. "Their tone, their love of music and their musical character seeped into my heart and my fingers."

Simeon Ross, Ryan Isojima, Uniter, Shoot the Image, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Battlebear, Kris Foran, Cuesta, Paul Massie and Le Peep are just a few of the many artists that routinely call up Porteous requesting his lead guitar skills.

His passionate on-stage performances and lead guitar work have also landed him opening slots with many talented artists, including Emm Gryner, Peter Katz, Codeen, Matthew Barber, Neverending White Lights, Lindy, Matt Norris and the Moon, and Nellie McKay.

In 2008, Porteous' film and music work caught the attention of Sumit Ajwani (founder of Makers and former Head of Production at Saatchi & Saatchi) whom co-produced Porteous' documentary film and music project entitled **War Music**.

War Music was a first of its kind. Viewers watch Porteous travel across Europe as he writes and records music, on-location, while following the very footsteps taken by Canadian soldiers during WWII. Through 10 countries, he visited battlefields, cemeteries and other points of interest, writing music based on his surroundings and interactions with veterans and other survivors of the war.

War Music premiered in Scotland and was featured on CBC, BBC, the Toronto Star, was a blogTO film pick, was an Official Selection for the River Arts Festival and even got a notable mention from Ed the Sock. The song "Cologne, Germany", written and recorded on-location for the film, received honourable mention in the 2010 Billboard Song Contest.

"Any project of such wide scope has potential for missteps, but Porteous's earnest songs, which we literally watch him write on the battlefields of Europe, bring some urgency to events that for many of us are usually just pieces of history. And that's no small feat."

blogTO, selecting "War Music" as Top Film Pick of the Day



Writing and recording music on-location in a WWII-era foxhole in Foy, Belgium for the documentary film War Music

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY

2023 will be an exciting year for Porteous with the release of Eric Schaeffer's new film **Before I Go** starring Annabella Sciorra (The Sopranos, CSI, Law and Order). The film features music by Porteous from his 2020 EP "**Tigerlily**." Porteous also wrote music for Schaeffer's 2015 feature film **Boy Meets Girl** starring Michael Welch (Twilight) which premiered in New York City and won over 30 film festival awards including a GLAAD Media Award.

Also in the works for 2023 is a new solo record and U.K. and Canadian solo tour dates.

Porteous' latest documentary film **257 Down**, directed and music score by Porteous, features Alex Abbott, a former dirt bike racer who became a quadriplegic following an accident. The film won multiple film festival awards for Best Film and premiered in Spain at the **Madrid Human Rights Film Festival**. The Hilltop Film Festival in Birmingham Alabama awarded Porteous with Best Documentary Short Film Award nothing 257 Down was "a very beautiful film." The film is slated for release Spring 2023 with portions of sales to Sunnybrook Hospital's Veteran Comfort Fund.

Porteous attributes his dedication to pushing artistic boundaries in multiple disciplines from the positive upbringing he had as a child. "Though I didn't have the luxury of growing up rich, I did have the luxury of having great parents who encouraged me to follow my dreams" said Porteous. "They taught me I could dream it, then it could be done and to never let lack of money be an excuse not to create."

His parents also instilled in him that commercial success, money and awards aren't good reasons to make art in the first place and how it's important to give back to the community to unify people from all walks of life. Since first making his mark on the music and film scene over 20 years ago, Porteous has done just that.

In 2019, Porteous volunteered to direct videos to raise awareness for the accessibility-focused charity **StopGap Foundation**. These videos were the centerpiece at fundraisers organized by Porteous and generated over \$10 000 for the charity, which equates to the cost of building over 40 single step wheelchair ramps!



David Porteous presenting Luke Anderson, co-founder of StopGap Foundation, with a \$10 000 oversized cheque

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY



"Leaders In Action" feature in SHE Magazine

In 2015 Porteous headlined an East Coast of Canada solo music tour to raise over \$3600 for the **Canadian Women's Foundation**. The entire music tour was organized by Porteous in an effort to save on costs of hiring a booking agent so all funds raised could go directly to the charity. The tour featured over 20 solo musicians, half being women and was featured on various media outlets including the CBC.

"The funds raised will help women and girls across Canada move out of violence, out of poverty, and into confidence."

Jessica Howard, Canadian Women's Foundation

As a long time Radiohead fan, Porteous felt compelled to do something positive after hearing the news that Radiohead's drum tech, Scott Johnson, was killed at a Live Nation concert just hours before Radiohead were scheduled to perform. Porteous organized concerts he headlined to raise money and purchased an electronic drum kit which he donated to Fort York Library in memory of Johnson. Now anyone with a library card and play that drum kit for free!

Philip Selway of Radiohead heard about the donation and loved the idea so much that he met up with Porteous in Toronto to discuss doing something similar in the UK. A month later, live on BBC Radio, Selway donated a drum kit in memory of Scott Johnson to the Manchester Library alongside Elbow's Guy Garvey and Joy Division's Stephen Morris.



Philip Selway (Radiohead) and Guy Garvey (Elbow) at Manchester Library live on BBC Radio



Philip Selway (Radiohead) and David Porteous at Fort York Library, Toronto with the drum kit Porteous donated in memory of drum tech Scott Johnson

DAVID PORTEOUS

BIOGRAPHY

Contacts:

Music website:

www.davidporteous.ca

Music & Film Production:

www.porteousmedia.com

Instagram & Twitter:

@davidporteous

E-mail:

contact@davidporteous.ca



Recording at Sigur Ros' studio in Iceland for the solo album "Leaving April"



Performing lead guitar with Uniter at the Indie Music Week Finals, MOD Club, Toronto



Guest performing for students of the Canada-Japan government sponsored student exchange program



Porteous handing over monies raised for Poppy Scotland after charity concerts Porteous organized in the U.K.