

A funny thing happened to Charley Beck on the way to teachers' college -- she became an artist to be watched on the Ottawa music scene, capturing media attention and an ever-growing following of fans.

Recently changing her name from Sarah Sedgman to capture a fresh new image, music has always been her first love. "As a child, I always loved singing to myself," she says. "I would sing anywhere -- at home, in the car, and when I was playing piano." Formal piano training from the age of four, singing at an early age, and a background in guitar have all lent to the music Charley creates today, in songs found on both her debut release "Silence Fell" (1999) and her December 2000 follow-up E.P., "So Hysterically."

It is with "So Hysterically" that Beck has found her true niche. "My songs have changed since my first CD," she acknowledges. "I've definitely grown, and gained a much better sense of what I want my sound to be." With all of this coming into focus, "So Hysterically" has caught the attention of Ottawa radio, with the title track frequently featured on **101.1 X-FM's** 'Indie Air' spotlight.

Sharing her songs with others is where Beck's true passion lies. "Performing is really my favourite thing to do," she says. "It's the place where I can just be myself and sing the songs that are most important to me." Apparently, these songs are just as important to her rapidly increasing number of fans. Over the past year, Beck's lively stage presence and catchy melodies, together with her fresh, pop-rock sound have won her a strong following and a buzz that's only getting louder.

In recent months, the words of this Ottawa-based artist have been heard in some prominent places. The summer of 2000 saw Beck playing at Fresh Fest 2000, alongside big-name acts **Matthew Good Band**, **Wide Mouth Mason**, and **The Tea Party**. This spring, she was a member of the Canadian Tulip Festival 2001 lineup, among the likes of **Big Sugar**, **Loverboy**, and **Treble Charger**. In the early summer, Beck was given the opportunity to showcase her music in front of numerous industry representatives, during Capital Music Conference 2001 at the Cisco Systems Bluesfest. Also a popular act on the Ottawa club scene, Beck has opened for a number of crowd-drawing acts, including the **Cash Brothers**, **Sarah Slean**, and local favourites **Hennessey**.

The success of Beck's CD release party in December 2000 proved she is more than capable of holding her own, something that the media cannot ignore. Press from the **Ottawa Citizen** and **Ottawa X Press**, along with features on **Rogers Television**, the **NewRO** and **CJOH's** morning show have made Beck both a familiar face and voice in the nation's capital.

In tune with her sound, and proud of her accomplishments, Beck is looking ahead. "I've just finished recording my first full album which has a bunch of new tunes I've written. I'm hoping to hear them 'out there' soon." she says. Above all, Beck hopes to forge a bond with an audience extending far outside the boundaries of Ottawa, sharing her words, music, and most significantly, herself.