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Teen brings smooth vocals to Rehoboth Beach

BY ROGER HILLIS AND JESSICA WHEATLEY • FOR THE BEACHCOMBER • MARCH 18, 2009

REHOBOTH BEACH — The talented singer-songwriter who will perform at the Dogfish Head brewpub in downtown Rehoboth Beach on Saturday may be the youngest person in the room.

Saratoga Springs, N.Y., resident Lindsay Mae is an 18-year-old performer who picked up an acoustic guitar when she was 15 and began writing lyrics and music almost immediately. She played coffee shops throughout upstate New York while in high school. Since signing with manager Randy Eisen's company, her touring schedule has stretched to Boston, New York City and beyond.

"I'm really excited for this show," she said. "(It) gives you a completely different experience than listening to my music on MySpace ... you can get a real vibe and feeling of my music at a live show."

Mae is promoting her newly released EP. The eponymous recording features five tunes with a gentle, pop sheen. The original songs such as "Cable Car" and "Paper Mache."

"Each song shows a different side to me, and a different story," she said. "After just three years, I've grown a lot of strength in songwriting and performing by using my life experiences to propel me forward."

Randy Eisen, Mae's manager, said Mae offers something for everyone.

"Lindsey's music stands out because she writes lyrics and music that are way beyond her years," he said. "Her songs provide insight into life experiences ... it's a real contrast from typical teen music."

Mae said she got bit by the music bug at a young age while watching her father play with his band.

"Watching my dad play ... really inspired me," Mae said. "I remember sitting there thinking it was so cool."

While some of Mae's music is reminiscent of Jewel, that performer could almost be considered a heritage artist to Mae's generation. Her biggest influence? KT Tunstall, who is best known for her 2005 single, "Black Horse and the Cherry Tree." Mae was also influenced by artists including Norah Jones, Tristan Prettyman, Missy Higgins and A Fine Frenzy.

The EP was produced by Hal Cragin, who has produced (and played bass on) records by both A Fine Frenzy and Iggy Pop.

"Music is all about the story behind the writer, inside the noise, between the written words," Mae said. "It's about the story that comes with it and the one you make of it. It's the spaces left empty between the lines for you to fill with your own story, to finish the story."

Admission to the Dogfish show is free. For more information, call 302-226-BREW.

IF YOU GO

WHO: Lindsey Mae

WHEN: 10 p.m., Saturday, March 21

WHERE: Dogfish Head Brewings & Eats, 320 Rehoboth Ave., Rehoboth Beach

COST: Free

CALL: 302-226-BREW

WEB: www.dogfish.com; www.lindseymaemusic.com