





Kaleigh Watts is a Canadian musician and songwriter, born a songbird of the wild, water, and woods. Her alto singing voice has been described as raw and hauntingly beautiful, which perfectly complements her rhythmic fingerpicking on acoustic guitar and her old soul as a lyricist. Watts captures listeners with her intimate musicality, nostalgic melodies on her vintage würtlitzer electric piano, and on-stage performance charisma. When joined by her band, Watts debuts an elevated sound with lush arrangements of bowed bass and subtle drums that project warmth and juxtapose with her somber lyrical themes.

Watts is an artist whose works reflect her location. She released her debut album *Smoke Lake* in 2014; an intimate and minimalist project that was recorded without electricity in her family's cabin and along portage trails in Smoke Lake, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario. Many of the tracks were inspired by the familiar surroundings of Algonquin, and include field recordings and textures of the park's wildlife and natural atmosphere. Watts is now singing songs of the city with her new album *Hung Me Dry*; a collection of songs composed during and inspired by Watts' time living in the city of Ottawa, Ontario. *Hung Me Dry* is an emotional and evocative art piece that illustrates Watts' longing for relief amid the solitude and darkness of a city. Watts opens her grieving heart for the duration of the album, engages your own heart's strings, and immerses your memory with hers of a mid-sized metropolis.

During her time in Canada's capital, Watts obtained a Bachelor of Music degree from Carleton University, and was mentored by many significant Canadian musicians, including Juno Award and Canadian Folk Award winner Lynn Miles. Watts, a sterling performer, has captured audiences with notable performances at the National Arts Centre, RBC Ottawa Bluesfest, CityFolk Festival, City of Om Yoga Festival, and tours in eastern Canada.

M U S I C



HUNG ME DRY

(2017)

Hung Me Dry is a collection of songs composed during and inspired by Watts' five years living in the city of Ottawa; an emotional and evocative art piece that illustrates Watts' longing for relief amid the solitude and darkness of a city.

<https://kaleighwatts.bandcamp.com/album/hung-me-dry>



SMOKE LAKE

(2014)

The majority of this album was recorded without electricity in Watts' family cabin on Smoke Lake, Algonquin Park. It features voice, organic textures, and field recordings of Smoke Lake's soundscape.

<https://kaleighwatts.bandcamp.com/album/smoke-lake>



OPHELIA

(2013)

Ophelia is an ode to William Shakespeare's imagery, and to the eerie and ethereal nature of his character Ophelia.

<https://kaleighwatts.bandcamp.com/track/ophelia>

Kaleigh Watts

P R E S S

**Bytown Sound on *Hung Me Dry*,
"Feature Friday: Kaleigh Watts"**

"Heartbreak, regret and loneliness: we've all experienced it, but rarely is it expressed as eloquently and coherently as it is on Kaleigh Watts' new EP "Hung Me Dry". These themes run deep and clear throughout the five tracks as Watts opens up and allows herself to be vulnerable and emotional with the listener, making them feel connected and like an old friend she's confiding in ... This album is beautiful through and through. There is no way to single out just one song; it is truly a work of art that begs to be admired in its entirety."

**Zachary Houle (Pop Matters)
on *Smoke Lake***

"She's got a tremendous handle on her art, and her sound is warm and convincing. Plus, the fact that [*Smoke Lake*] was recorded directly in nature gives the EP a lived in quality that's quite appealing. This is a short album that's destined for the cottage, and if you're looking for thoughtful and quality songwriting, *Smoke Lake* is a good bet for those seeking maturity and wisdom at the hands of such a young woman. Watts is sterling and a consummate performer, so it's with great excitement to envision what her first full-length may sound like, and which portage trail she leads delighted listeners down in the future."

**Couch Assassin on *Smoke Lake*,
"In Her Element"**

"There's something spooky about the way the authority and low range of Watts' voice combines with the poetry of her lyrics, making her sound like a seer, the tracks captured from a séance. The eeriness is greatly enhanced by the cast of unconventional sounds in the background ... The album's vision of capturing the feel of a wild, isolated place seems like a sonic analog of other ways of bottling pieces of the wild like wildflowers pressed between glass or taxidermy and the record carries the same aura of rarity about it."

**Spotlight Ottawa on *Smoke Lake*,
"To Be Savoured: *Smoke Lake*"**

"The rare poetic orchids of *Smoke Lake*, conceived of memory and dream, birthed in solitude and sanctuary, nurtured by bone and breath and blood and soul surrounded by nature and ancestry, are set before us by Kaleigh Watts as gentle *dona spiritus naturae* to breathe in and ...to savour."

**Ottawa Citizen, "Big Beat: The Ottawa
music playlist for 2014"**

"In The Attic by Kaleigh Watts, from *Smoke Lake*: An ephemeral pairing of vocal and acoustic guitar, as delicate as smoke over the lake."



N O T A B L E P E R F O R M A N C E S

'Hung Me Dry' Album Release Tour 2017 - Ottawa, ON / Montreal, QC / Wakefield, QC

City of Om Yoga Festival 2017

'Mother Effort' Tour 2016 with The Most Loyal - Ottawa, ON / Toronto, ON /
Fredericton, NB

Cityfolk Festival 2015

RBC Ottawa Bluesfest 2015

'Smoke Lake' Album Release Show 2014 @ The National Arts Centre - Ottawa, ON

The Blacksheep Inn 2014 with Lynn Miles - Wakefield, QC

The Spill 2013 - Peterborough, ON

Zaphod's Beeblebrox 2012 with Kalle Mattson - Ottawa, ON



L I N K S

Website: www.kaleighwatts.com

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C O N T A C T

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