

**INDIE MUSIC**



PROMOTIONAL

Canary Mine bring a curious blend of rap, folk and humour to the Circus Room on Saturday .

# Rare birds

Canary Mine takes on folk with seriously irreverent attitude — all in name of fun

It's always important to have a good first impression, and the opening salvo of Canary Mine's debut album, *Better Bitter Happy Horny*, certainly accomplishes that. In only one-minute, 14-seconds, *Rock Song* throws down the gauntlet better than any heavy metal band could ever hope to. The difference is, Canary Mine is primarily a trio of far-flung musical iconoclasts who since they've come together, have been developing a sound somewhere between traditional folk and gangsta rap.

Of course, it's all done with the best of intentions, according to singer/guitarist (and Waterloo Region native) James Lambro.

"To me, (*Rock Song*) is early-era hip-hop lyrics over early rock 'n' roll music. It does go over well live. Also, there's a band called *Trole* from St. Thomas. They're like our mentors. It's kind of making fun of them, with lots of respect."

Lambro's co-conspirators are keyboardist/vocalist Mim Adams, drummer/vocalist Carl Welch, and bassist Joe Arnup who came on board officially after the album was completed. The common thread among all of them seems to be complete musical freedom, combined with a wicked sense of humour. Although none of them can pin down what specifically makes them click, they agree that Canary Mine is working out better than any other project they have been involved in.

"We all seem to have the same sense



**JASON SCHNEIDER**

of humour and we all feel like showing it off," says Adams. "For me, our songs are based on real circumstances that could actually happen, but taken to a slightly shocking level."

Still, Frank Zappa was playing devil's advocate for many listeners when he posed his famous question, does humour belong in music? For Canary Mine, the answer is a resounding yes, judging by other songs on the album like *Canadian Strip*, and *Hell's Angel*.

"Carl and I have always included comedy in our between-song antics," Lambro says. "We like to entertain. It's a Canadian thing, being funny. All of the best American comedians are Canadian. We tried being news-anchor musicians, but it didn't go over so well, and hockey sticks make crappy instruments."

The members are a well-travelled bunch, and have made it a point to go on tour as often as possible. Having recently returned from a western jaunt, they agree that it's a good way

to improve their music.

"Being on the road is hard, but it pays off in the end," says Welch. "What's great about this band is that we're all able to just relax and have a good time when we play."

Still, Lambro remains a proud Waterloo Region resident, having worked with other great local artists like Gaffer and DJs Jay Hunsberger and Mike Shannon, and hopes to maintain his ties here despite now living in Toronto.

"I don't know what it is, it might be a 'hometown' thing. My best friends are from (this area). It's the first world I discovered," he says.

"Downtown Kitchener was so rough in the late '80s and early '90s. I learned so much just skateboarding around down there. How to fight, how to avoid fighting. Uptown Waterloo is a mecca of intellectuals and university folk. Carry-On Comics and Ethel's Lounge. Now And Then Books and Club Abstract. How can you not love it?"

Canary Mine performs Saturday night at the Circus Room in Kitchener with local sonic wizards Humshuttle. Go to [www.canarymine.com](http://www.canarymine.com) for more on the band, and how to get their album.

**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

Also on Saturday night, Shannon Lyon performs a rock show with the World Record Players (apologies for the shameless plug), and special guest Jim Bryson in the cosy confines of The Boathouse in Victoria Park. Get there early for a table!

**Galleries & Museums**

K0633292

**Joseph Schneider Haus Museum**



**Ring in the New**  
This seasonal exhibition explores the customs and traditions associated with the winter solstice and celebrations of the New Year.  
*Christmas Open House:*  
Dec. 3, 7:00 pm

**December Weekends**

- Cookies & Pretzels* . . . . . November 27 & 28
  - Tallow to Tapers* . . . . . December 4 & 5
  - Pennsylvania-German Breakfast Basics*  
. . . . . December 11 & 12
  - Saint Martin's Goose* . . . . . December 18 & 19
  - Toys & Games* . . . . . December 23 & 24
  - Candlelight Evening (7-9:30)* . . . December 12
- Visit the historic Haus by candlelight. Call for tickets.



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*\$28 \$25 \$22*

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