



## Kingston singer-songwriter celebrates her Lucky Life

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BY KRISTYN WALLACE

EMC Entertainment - In the song "Lucky Life," from the album of the same name, Wendy Luella Perkins sings: "I have the great good fortune, upon waking every morn, to welcome what's before me, like a babe who is newborn."

Indeed, life is good for the Kingston singer-songwriter, who recently released *Lucky Life*, her first full-length album.

Perkins describes her songs as "glimpses into the simple joys and small tragedies of day-to-day living," and says everything she sings carries emotional weight.

"My songs are very personal," she says. "They're rooted in an experience or situation that I've had or witnessed somebody else have, but even though they're personal songs, they're about universal themes."

"One More Dance" is about the death of Perkins' mother. "Let's Start Again" deals with the issue of divorce. But there are songs of hope and promise too, like "Apple Blossom Time," about moving to start a new life, and the A Capella number "Little Brown Bird," one of many songs on the album inspired by the beauty found in nature. Being raised in rural Nova Scotia, she says, influenced much of her life and her music.

Perkins, who moved to Kingston in 1994, is currently promoting the album with several house concerts, which she says are a great way for up-and-coming musicians to be heard and support themselves.

"I feel lucky to be sharing my music in these intimate places," she says. "I'm really committed to decreasing the distance between people in the audience and me as a performer."

Perkins' lucky life is also a busy life. She is the founder of Soulful Singing, a music meditation group program, and is also an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, as well as a local food and farm activist.

"I love the work, I love the people, I love the land," she says of her varying roles. "A lot of my life has been spent figuring that out, what really makes me come alive."



*Kristyn Wallace, Kingston EMC*

Kingston singer-songwriter Wendy Luella Perkins is celebrating the release of *Lucky Life*, her first full-length album. The cover art for the album, seen above, is by Pam Thompson.

One of her biggest supporters is her husband, well-known organist and choir director Charlie Walker, who collaborated with Perkins on many of the album's songs.

"We come at music so differently," she says. "He's a classically-trained musician and a wonderful musician, and I come at it from a very intuitive place."

That intuition has served Perkins well. She's already back in the studio working on her next album, a collection of meditative chants. The project is being funded in part by a grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

She also enjoys busking on the streets of downtown Kingston.

"I love this idea of everybody experiencing music," says Perkins. "I'm quite committed to bringing live music back into people's everyday lives."

And while Perkins' efforts are usually aimed at her listeners, she admits there's plenty of personal benefit to what she does.

"It's always been about finding deeper meaning, having real connections with people, and trying to figure out what brings me real joy," she says. "Because I know when I'm in touch with that joy, that's contagious."

To learn more about Perkins and her music, visit [www.wendyluellaperkins.com](http://www.wendyluellaperkins.com). House concerts are scheduled for Feb. 6 in Inverary, Feb. 18 in Kingston and March 5 near Yarker. For details send an email to [info@wendyluellaperkins.com](mailto:info@wendyluellaperkins.com).