



April Verch plays for fans and friends

By [Ryan Paulsen](#), Daily Observer

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After almost 15 years of touring, and a list of visited venues that spans continents, Ottawa Valley fiddler, stepdancer and singer-songwriter April Verch still feels the difference from the stage during a show back home in the Ottawa Valley.

“I wouldn’t call it nerves anymore,” she says between sets at last night’s performance in Deep River, “but it’s a different kind of excitement when I’m playing at home, and I know people. And it’s different during the show because I’m thinking of people I know who are here who would like a certain thing. So it’ll be like ‘oh, I know Uncle Wilmer’s gonna love this one’ or ‘I know so-and-so’s probably not going to care for this one so much, but it’s okay, they’re going to like the next one.’”

The concert, at Child’s Auditorium at Mackenzie Community School, was part of Verch’s CD release tour, one that has taken her across the Atlantic and back in support of her upcoming album, *Bright Like Gold*.

The album, which will be released on April 2, was for sale in limited numbers at the concert, and the band was kept busy furiously scribbling autographs for fans and friends during intermission.

For Verch, the pending release is not only a thrill, but also a chance to finally be able to relax, as much as possible for an international touring sensation anyway.

“I’m excited to have it come out, and also relieved. It’s always busy being on tour and keeping with the business end of things, but when you have something like that coming up, it seems like there’s double going on. I’m looking forward to just having it out.”

Before landing back in Ontario, the April Verch Band, which features Verch on vocals and fiddle, Hayes Griffin on guitar and Cody Walters on upright-electric bass and banjo, was in Belgium.

“It was wonderful,” she says of their European tour. “We always have a great time when we go over, especially when we go somewhere new. It’s really fresh for them, and it feels like an honour and a privilege to share this music with them.”

One of the pieces of music that she's brought with her across the pond was actually penned by her father, Ralph Verch, who wrote it for his soon-to-be-fiance, and perhaps understandably never expected it to be used to entertain a global audience.



Ottawa Valley fiddle and step-dance sensation April Verch, middle, performs at Child's Auditorium in Deep River on Monday night, March 25, alongside bandmates Cody Walters, left, and Hayes Griffin, in support of her upcoming album, *Bright Like Gold*, set to be released on April 2.

"I never thought it would go that far," he laughs, "to be heard over there."

According to Walters, one of the more common questions from the Belgian crowds after shows was "which one has your father's song on it?"

"You're a hit in Belgium, Ralph," he announced from the stage after performing the tune.

For the senior Verch, homecoming shows like last night's are a great chance to catch up with his daughter, even if a tight touring schedule doesn't allow for a lengthy visit.

"It's nice to see her come back," he says. "She doesn't get back very often, so it's nice when she does get a few days, but really it's not a great big visit cause she's busy doing business on the next tour or an upcoming tour. But it's always nice to see them back home."

From here, the band is whipping down south, with two shows later this week in Tennessee, but fans everywhere won't have to wait long to hear new April Verch offerings.

Information on upcoming concerts, and where you can get your hands, physical or digital, on the upcoming album, are all available on the band's website:

www.aprilverch.com.

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