

Write about it!

A Concert
about Making
and Sharing Songs

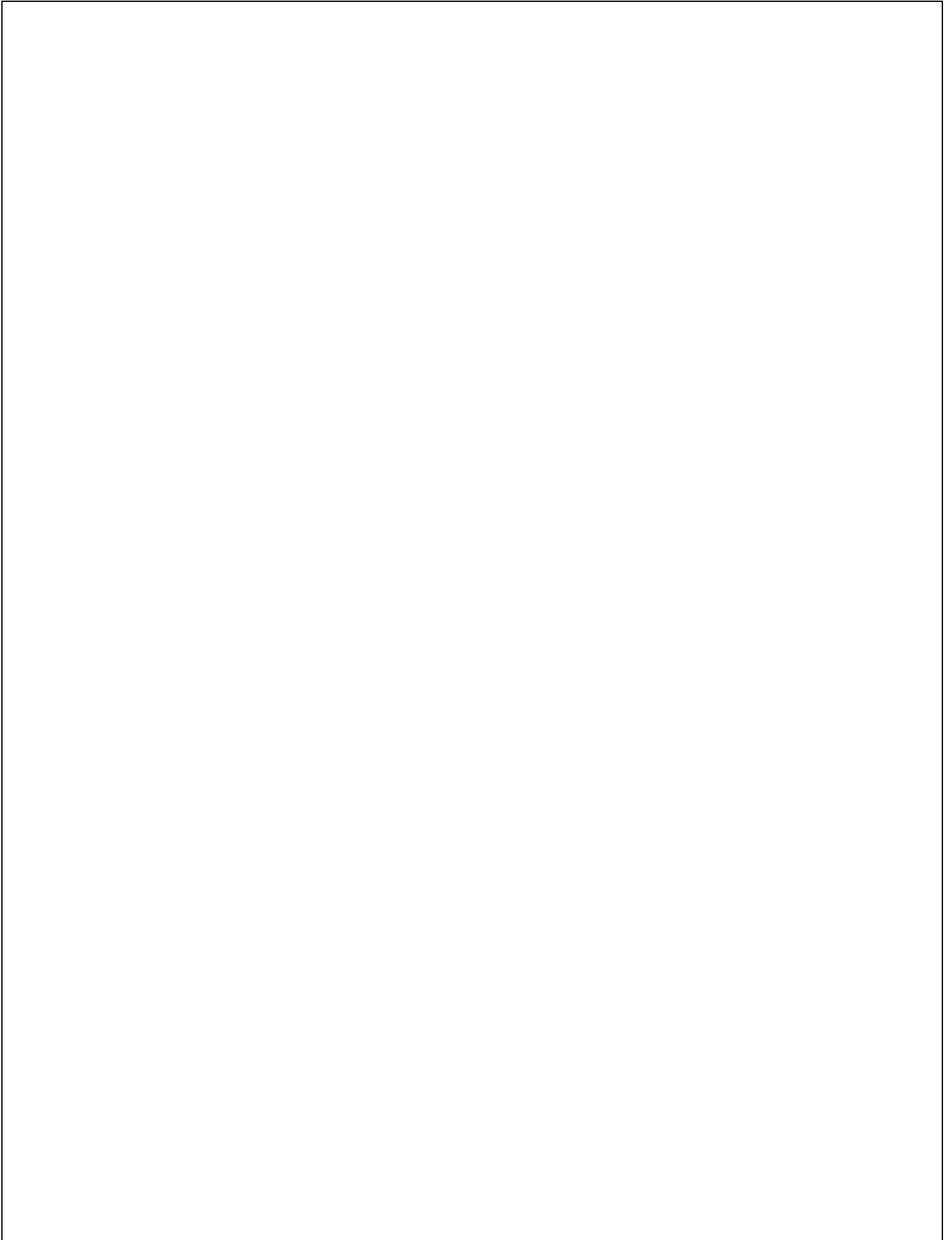
* Featuring *

Paul Lauzon

songwriter & guitarist

Date:

Time:



FOCUS

Performer: Paul Lauzon

Duration: One hour performance

The Program Write about it!

The human condition -- we all have things we wish we could express -- and when you have something to say, you dance, paint, sing, write, imagine, create -- you make the things that artists make.

Paul connects with the audience and takes them on a journey of expression, introducing and then performing mostly songs he has written. "Each song has its own story -- it begins as something you notice, or a comment you hear, a funny thing that happens, a deep emotion you are feeling, or a place you visit -- each kernel developing into a song that takes on a life of its own, and so you **write about it!**".

Paul's performance is an engaging blend of narrative and song specifically designed to engage, educate, and entertain a student audience. He has many years' experience working with groups of all ages.

Instruments played include: guitar, mandocello, harmonica, percussion, as well as a variety of electronic effects. Musical styles which have inspired many of the original songs presented include traditional, blues, jazz, country, indie folk, and singer/songwriter genres.

The performance touches on topics ranging from the very personal to broader issues of social justice -- songs about friends, lovers, animals, sacred places, our changing world, helping others, rhythms of work, tragedy and comedy, to name a few.

What students will learn:

Engagement Students are engaged with a writer, in the language rich environment of song poetry -- a place to learn more about themselves and their world -- in the context of a live interactive performance.

Writing lyrics Students will be presented with a range of strategies to develop effective *creative writing*, how one goes about expressing oneself with clarity, feeling, and precision.

Creating the music Students will learn about some musical aspects of song writing: melody, beats, the various song forms, and how one uses guitar to create accompaniments.

Write about it! Hearing a songwriter in action, students will better understand the importance of "just do it!", how they themselves might "explore, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and learnings; and to use their imaginations". (General Curriculum Outcome - GC0 8: Department of Education)

Fees, Booking, & Technical Information

Fee format for Paul Lauzon's "Write about it!"

A. Performance for School Assembly

1 performance	2 in the same day
\$250	\$375

B. Intimate Performances for 1 to 2 classes per session

2 in a half day	3 sessions in one day
\$260	\$390

NOTE: Paul Lauzon is a member of the Canadian Federation of Musicians. As such, his school shows are partly subsidized by the Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF). This subsidy helps to bring live educational concert programs to all schools who appreciate this enriching artistic experience.

Booking:

Contact Paul Lauzon directly at:

Website: www.paullauzon.ca (Contact Form)

Email: paul@paullauzon.ca

Phone: (902) 678-7518

Mail: 8 Caldwell Avenue, Kentville, Nova Scotia, B4N 2C6

Technical Information:

Paul will need to have access to the performing space one hour before the performance.

He will bring his own sound reinforcement system, and when necessary, will set up a small lighting system.

The performance/stage area should be a minimum of 12' wide and 8' deep.

Concert posters will be provided and should be up several days before the event.

Notes for Teachers

Study Guide for the assembly program,

"Write about it!" with Paul Lauzon

Program Description: Singer/songwriter Paul Lauzon will present a program of primarily original songs that will help students understand the importance of creative writing as a means of self-expression. Paul will introduce the songs with brief stories, both serious and humorous. In doing so he will demonstrate and explain the basic elements of songwriting: having something to say/a message, the lyrics, the music, the arrangement, and the performance. These elements may be described as follows:

The Message: Where it all begins, the thing that makes you want to write. Each song has its own story -- it begins as something you notice, or a comment you hear, a funny thing that happens, a deep emotion you're feeling, or a place you visit -- each kernel developing into a song that wants to take on a life of its own, you have something to say and so you **write about it!**

The Lyrics: Song poetry is real poetry, linked to the great tradition of oral and written language full of its own natural music, rich with poetic strategy and phrasing, encompassing endless variation, within a spectrum of highly structured to free verse. Find lyrics for some of Paul's songs at www.paullauzon.ca

The Music: Paul demonstrates many different song forms. The melodies build on the natural music of the words. We will talk about uses of the voice, and finding your own voice.

The Arrangement: For this program, this means how the guitar is being used to support the song: the keys, picking patterns, tunings, electronics.

The Performance: The performance is about pacing and sequence of the songs, and encouraging the students in extended interactive moments. The Program models the benefits of the art of song writing as self-expression.

NOTE: English Language GCO (General Curriculum Outcome) #8 states that "Students will be expected to use writing and other forms of representation to explore, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and learning and to use their imaginations".

Audience Expectations:

Students will be invited to join in, to sing, suggest lyrics, clap, or move at special and specific moments during the performance. This will be done within a context of encouragement, listening to one another, respect.

The program will close with a quiet, meditative energy to facilitate an orderly and easy transition to their next activity.

Testimonials

"Paul is an interactive speaker who engages students in a variety of activities through performance, musical instrument demonstrations, breathing exercises, and visualization. His story telling pulls the kids in to where the creativity behind his song writing originates. I would highly recommend inviting Paul in to work with your classes."

Allison Bolton, Dartmouth High School

"There's a bittersweet quality to his songs that reflects the bitter-sweetness of life itself, the timeless, human intermingling of joy and sadness, tears and laughter".

Alden Nowlan, Atlantic Insight

"21st Century troubadour . . . his songs all have that universal flavour."

Bill Turney, Atlantic Advocate

"His songs are very alive, vital and relevant . . . a very talented musician."

Robbie Gass, Springhill Community

"Paul Lauzon writes it, sings it, and believes it. Now he's joined with the *Canadian Hunger Foundation* to do something about it . . . with proceeds of the recording going to a water-starved village in southeastern Kenya."

Helen Charters, Telegraph Journal

"Paul is our maritime Leonard Cohen." Debbie Adshade, Saint John

"Paul Lauzon's performance kept an enthralled audience laughing and singing throughout."

Don Hoyt, Telegraph Journal

"His attention to detail, his strong folk voice, his versatility and musicianship carried the day."

Vivien Anderson, Daily Gleaner

"Your lyrics and music - life and beauty and mystery and so much more."

Dr. Ron Lehr

Links

Free streaming, lyrics, and chords at www.paullauzon.ca

Online purchase at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/paullauzon2>

On YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnDKTsFpl6M>



Paul Laurent Lauzon

Paul Laurent Lauzon was born in Rouyn, Quebec, of French Canadian parents. From early years, he has lived in many places including Niagara, Fredericton, Montreal, New Orleans, London UK, Queen Charlotte Islands, Boston, Dallas, Toronto, and most recently in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. The constants have been writing, the world of music, family, and friends. He has worked as a singer/songwriter, in theatre, in academia, as well as in the field of music therapy.

Paul has a rich repertoire of *original* songs: love songs, stories, songs of inspiration, songs for social change. His style keeps evolving, using both traditional and contemporary forms. He experiments with creative techniques such as open tunings on guitar, ambient electronics, and stream of consciousness journals to bring imagination to voice, guitar, and paper. Besides songs, he writes poems, stories, and peer-reviewed articles.

In his solo performances, he aims to express the poetic spirit -- in songs that connect and take the listener on a journey. He accompanies himself on acoustic and electric guitar, and will sometimes mix in harmonica, mandocello, or celtic harp. He loves to get people singing. His most recent release is the 12 song CD "Among Humans".

For more information, join Paul at www.paullauzon.ca