

Behm casts new spell with radio single

By Paul Rudan - Campbell River Mirror - January 25, 2008



Michael Behm, owner of the Voodoo Lounge, has traded the rock star life for the family life, but he hasn't given up on music. His latest single, "The Art of Letting Go" is getting airplay on Sirius satellite radio.

Always the stylish rocker.

Flamboyant and sometimes notorious too.

A veteran musician, songwriter, nightclub owner, businessman, promoter, rancanteur and now....gasp, shall we dare say it....all-round family guy who's now living "the quiet life" by the sea.

Oh yeah, he's also got a groovy new tune "The Art of Letting Go" in rotation on satellite radio.

Yes, life is but a breeze for Voodoo Lounge owner Michael Behm who recently packed up the family in Vancouver and cruised across the Strait of Georgia to staid ol' Qualicum Beach.

"We needed a bigger home. The emphasis of your life changes," explains Behm, who will be a father for the fourth time on Valentine's Day, the third with his wife – they also have a 4.5-year-old boy and a 2.5-year-old girl.

It's a far cry, pun intended, from late nights in Campbell River or banging out "Banana Republic" at the other Voodoo Lounge in the Dominican Republic.

He's also put behind his wrangling with city council over the short-lived experiment of having exotic dancers perform at the Voodoo Lounge.

Ah well, water under the bridge, as they say for a man like Behm who continually moves forward. In fact, he arrived in France yesterday to attend Midem for the "World's Music Market."

The international music exposition runs Jan. 27-31, and Behm will be pitching a selection of 22 songs he's written and produced over the years.

"A lot of deals can be made...I'm looking for licensing partners," he says during a telephone interview from Qualicum. "Record companies are looking for material that plays well to their market, and places like England, the U.K., Germany and Sweden are a good fit for my material."

Behm says he's receiving a lot of good feedback on his latest single which is also the title of his forthcoming CD, *The Art of Letting Go*. (You can listen to it on his new website michaelbehmmusic.com)

"When Sirius (satellite radio) started playing it, it opened up a lot of doors and these things build momentum," says Behm, who's also heading to Ontario and Quebec for a radio tour in late February.

Behm's single has also been played in rotation on Galaxie, a Canadian continuous music service offered through the Internet.

He describes his music as an eclectic blend of retro and modern sounds which result in "good pop songs" which he compares to the work of John Mayer and Roman Keating.

"I never ask someone how they like my song. I just look for an emotional response. That can tell me a lot," he says.

The new single is also very well produced which is no surprise really given that Behm has done this type of work for years at his Premier Studios in Vancouver.

But now the studio is located at his home in Qualicum and Behm is looking forward to concentrating on making more music with his family.

"It's the dream studio," he says with glee. "I like Campbell River a lot but I'm always busy there and it's hard to get much done (musically)...and, yes, I have been writing a lot of kids songs."