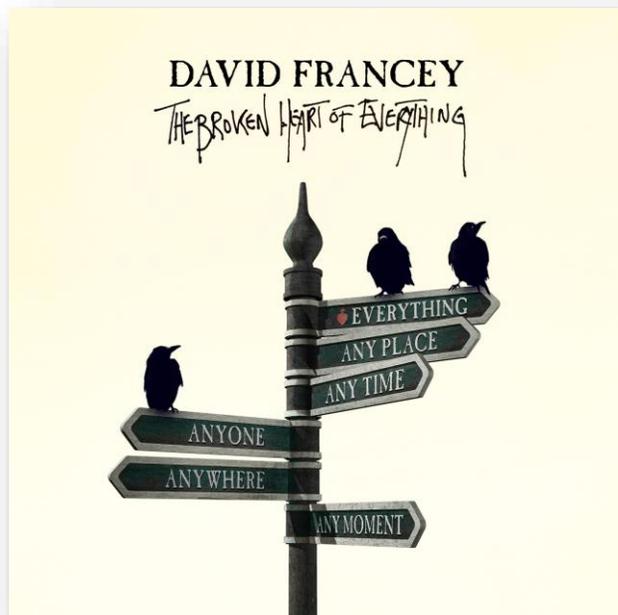


# David Francey Tours with Original Artwork and New Album

## Francey Recovering From Loss of Voice Sets Out On Art Tour

The voice of one of Canada's top touring folk artists has been silent for a while. Having earned three Juno Awards, four Canadian Folk Music Awards, a SOCAN Folk Music Award, and three critics' Album of the Year awards from the Canadian folk magazine Penguin Eggs, this "latter-day Canadian poet laureate." (Greg Quill, the Toronto Star) has withdrawn from the folk circuit to rest and rehabilitate.



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Like so many other hard-touring artists – Adele, Celine Dion, Shania Twain and Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy among them – David is facing challenges with his singing voice resulting from years of heavy touring. David gradually developed a hoarseness making it increasingly difficult for him to project in concert.

"I worked construction for twenty years. It took its toll. Then I toured continuously with my music for twenty more. This too takes a toll", David remarked.

While he still had a voice, Francey gathered his favourite musicians and recorded his latest album, *The Broken Heart of Everything*.

David Francey's new album showcases his extraordinary skill as a lyricist. His so-good-they-could-be-traditional melodies, and themes of the camaraderie of small-town life, the drudgery of the daily grind, the pride in an honest day's work, the sadness of losing loved ones, the joy of close family connections, and the quiet strength of mature love have struck a chord with audiences around the world.

"Come Sunday" is a song about the tragic death of Tim Annesley, who played hockey with David on his Sunday night team in the Eastern Townships in the late '90s. It is both a touching account of the emptiness a community feels when one of its own is taken without warning and a celebration of small-town hockey culture – a topic David also feted on the Juno-winning *Skating Rink*.

"Blue Sorrow and Then Some" is a tribute to Hank Williams – inspired by a teenage memory of playing Hank's "Greatest Hits" endlessly after salvaging the record from his aunt's junk pile. Ivan

Rosenberg's dobro and John Showman's sweet violin give the song a classic country flavor without departing from David's trademark acoustic folk sound.

"Only Love", featuring fiddle player James McKie, is the kind of song that stirs up good-natured envy in other songwriters, for few can take as common a muse as love, write verses comprised of little more than metaphors, and end up with a powerful, moving piece, totally free of clichés, about the only thing in life that really matters. It's the sort of heartfelt song with a stick-in-your-head chorus that has won David fans in everyone from John-Angus MacDonald of the Trews to Ron MacLean of Hockey Night in Canada. Lyrics from "Only Love" lend themselves to the title of this album.

"I Know It Won't" was written in a hotel room in Grande Prairie about the exasperation of an artist who has been on the road too long. It is the kind of song about working life on which David has built his reputation. Having long ago traded his tool belt for the touring life, David now brings the same rawness and sincerity to the realities of a working artist as he has to those of being a lake boat captain, a miner, or a farmer.

David recorded the songs with his long-time band-mates Mark Westberg (guitar), Chris Coole (banjo), and Darren McMullen (mandolin, etc.) at Coole's family cabin on Belmont Lake, a rustic setting that gives the album its intimate sound. David's delivery is soft, smooth and emotive, a beautiful, gentle timbre arising from his ongoing struggle with vocal strain.

Still on the mend, David plans to take to the road once again with *The Broken Heart of Everything* in 2019.

A true artist through and through, David is also an avid painter. In fact, he has been painting almost as long as he has been touring as a performer. In addition to the release of *The Broken Heart of Everything*, David will be visiting select Canadian cities this spring and summer with a new exhibit of his popular artwork on his *David Francey Art Tour 2018*.

Much like his music, the images that attract David are drawn from his experience of the world around him. His landscapes – rural or industrial – and seascapes are the kind of places in which you might find the heroes and heroines of his music. Like his songs, his paintings are evocative and compelling yet reflective and sincere.

Remarkably, although colourblind and self-taught, David's paintings are undeniably striking. His art is often subdued and lonely but vastly intriguing and poignant. David's unique background makes his work all the more captivating.

The art tour will give fans of David's music a chance to see another side of his creative personality, one that they might not have experienced before and are sure to be equally moved by.

David's new CD, original art and prints will be available on this tour.

For more information on *The Broken Heart of Everything* and the David Francey Art Tour 2018 go to [www.davidfrancey.com](http://www.davidfrancey.com)

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