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Cape Breton-born guitarist releases second album

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Jazz-rock fusion described as 'angular piece of modern-day bebop with a New Orleans accent'

SYDNEY RIVER — A former Sydney River resident has just released his second album of jazz-rock fusion originals in Nashville and he hopes to eventually introduce Cape Bretoners to his music.



"I'll be back for the ECMAS which will be held in Sydney next year and maybe over Christmas we'll be able to arrange some performances," said Matt MacDougall, 25, who now lives in Nashville where he teaches and performs as a guitarist.

As a child, MacDougall took the usual music lessons but says it wasn't until he took guitar lessons at age 13 that he felt a strong enough connection with music that he knew that's what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

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Sydney River native Matt MacDougall teaches and performs as a guitarist in Nashville. He's just released his second album of jazz-rock fusion originals.

MacDougall studied under Sydney guitar teacher Dennis Grant and played in various rock and heavy metal bands around the area until going into the jazz program at St. Francis Xavier University. As he was graduating from the program, he and a group of other musicians

released his first album, "Familiar Faces," which ended up being nominated for the East Coast Music Award's jazz recording of the year.

MacDougall then entered the masters program at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and that's when he met Arianna Fanning, a drummer who plays on his second

recording, "Boy Goes To City," along with Jeff Coffin (of the Dave Matthews Band) on sax; Adam Carillo, sax; Alex Wignall, piano; and Roy Voyt, bass. MacDougall and Fanning plan to marry later this year.

The self-produced Boy "Goes To City" was released May 19 and has been described as "an angular piece of modern-day bebop with a New Orleans accent."

MacDougall describes it as music that any fusion lover would appreciate.

"It's a combination of my rock roots and my training in jazz and fusing the two together."

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