

South Side Denny to appear at Wild Rose Moon

BY JENNIFER BRITTIN
STAFF WRITER

PLYMOUTH—Wild Rose Moon will be hosting a concert, *From Montreal with Love: Denny Snyder*, on Saturday, March 21. Known locally as South Side Denny, South Bend native, Denny Snyder, is an accomplished blues and rock guitarist with an original style. A very versatile performer, his music is a unique blend inspired by the music of many artists, including Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, Don Ross as well as several others.

"Denny is like taking a look at the blues of yesteryear, but with a modern punch," said Dave Barker of Star FM Radio, Australia in his description of Denny's sound.

Denny has released ten albums. "The last two albums are with my kids, so they are actually Snyder's albums," said Denny. "Two are acoustic, and the rest are versions of my electric band."

"I'm really looking forward to coming to Plymouth and seeing a lot of familiar faces again," said Denny. His most recent performances in Plymouth include the Blueberry Festival and a couple events at the Young Amphitheatre.

Denny will hold a guitar workshop from 3 to 4 p.m. at Wild Rose Moon prior to his performance. "Anyone can attend. I always encourage people of every age and skill level to participate. There is always something to be learned," said Denny. "We usually end up with a group jam which is always a lot of fun!"

Denny will demonstrate his skills in concert from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased on Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com.

Denny's start in the music world is a somewhat unique one. While most musicians report an early interest in music which usually begins at a very young age, Denny says that his interest was sparked suddenly at age eleven.

"It kind of hit me when I was around eleven," he said. "It's kind of strange because I can remember that exact day. I was riding in the car with my parents and an Elvis Presley song came on the radio; *Steamroller Blues*. I remember leaning up front and telling my mom, hey I want to learn to play guitar like this guy's playing right now."

Denny said that he thinks his parents thought it was just a passing whim and they didn't take him seriously. "So I kept bugging them. I borrowed a guitar from this guy down the street and started playing until I would fall asleep," he explained. "I didn't know anything about it, but I played."

After hearing how well their son did with the guitar, they decided to let him pursue his interest and a talented musician was born. Ninety percent of Denny's music is his own, which adds more depth to his sound. The self-proclaimed "electric, acoustic, blues, rock, jazz, funk, country, folk music player" is a master guitarist, songwriter, vocalist, music educator and author.

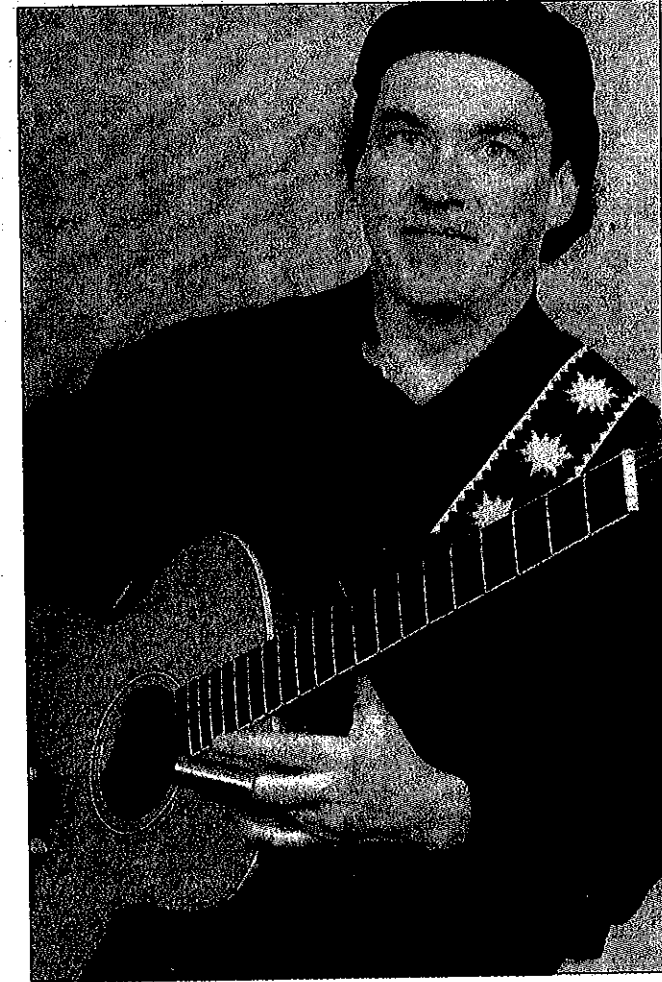
"I've got quite a history of playing," Denny said. He started out playing locally in northern Indiana and Michigan with several different bands, giving himself a name in the music world with the electric blues. In 1984, he formed his own band, South Side Denny and the Skintones. This band received a lot of airplay and put them on the map. After the band split in 1989, the South Side Denny Band was formed. Although many musicians have played with the band, it has always been a three piece blues band featuring Denny's songs and arrangements.

"We still play South Side Denny Band shows occasionally," said Denny. "We just got done booking a couple of shows in Indianapolis."

Denny has played hundreds of venues in 25 states throughout the United States as well as five Canadian provinces. "I even played in Germany once as part of another show," said Denny. "The last several years I've been getting a lot of air play in Europe and someday I would like to do a European tour."

Denny met his wife in Montreal while playing a show 20 years ago. After living in the states for several years, they moved back to Canada in 2007. "When we moved here it was total culture shock for awhile for me," Denny explained. "It's totally French here." Even though Denny knew French and it was the main language spoken in their home, moving to Montreal was quite an adjustment for him.

Denny owns his own shop, *Salon de Musique*, where he teaches, repairs guitars and plays. In 2011, he formed his family roots band, *The Snyder's*, which is comprised of his 14 year old son, Phillip, who is the drummer and his 18 year



Denny Snyder

old daughter, Lorrie, who sings and plays bass. He tours with his children in the summer and the rest of the year plays solo, acoustic, and other events that come up. "My dream is that the band with the kids takes off," said Denny. "I really love playing with them."