

The Great Reunion series ends next week with the ?sounds of Hoagy? and Hazelton

By Brock Weir

A singer, actress, and artist, Terra Hazelton had a meeting of the minds when she first met the multi-talented John Sheard.

Mr. Sheard is the musical director of CBC's Vinyl Café with Stuart MacLean and Ms. Hazelton hit the road with the show in 2007. Travelling around doing a month of shows with MacLean and Sheard, she had so much fun that she wanted it to continue. When pondering what was to become her sophomore album, ?Give Me What You Got?, she looked no further than Sheard for her producer.

The duo brings their chemistry to Aurora next Friday, March 21 at the Aurora Cultural Centre for the final event in Mr. Sheard's concert series ?The Great Revue?, which launched in January.

?John and I are starting to bounce around some ideas and specific things we want to do and we meet up this week to go over things,? Ms. Hazelton tells The Auroran. ?Together, we will massage the show and put it together. I have a new trio record out, so I want to do songs from that, but we also have a lot of music from the album John and I made together. There is nobody I trust more in terms of helping me put together the set list.?

Ms. Hazelton says she knew almost from the outset that she wanted to be an artist in some way. She began singing when she was five, and dancing when not much older. By the time she was in her early teens, she was already an old hand at improv, practicing her craft at a comedy theatre.

?I just knew in my heart of hearts I had a desire to be a performer. I knew I loved singing and I knew I loved to make people laugh, so I decided early on it would never be just one, and all throughout my life I would do my best to continually do it all. I have this incredibly strong need to express myself artistically and it is what keeps me sane?

Lately, she says, her music has tended to drift away from what she describes as the ?raunchy blues?, but maintaining a strong connection to the audience ? and herself.

This is what she says she hopes to convey when she takes to the stage next week at the Cultural Centre.

?For me, it is more important the audience goes away remembering they had a great time,? she says. ?It is important they remember songs and moments, but my job as a performer is just to give them such a well-rounded night that has so many moments, sad moments, happy moments, moments where they are laughing that at the end of the day they don't come home and write down set lists, but feel they have experienced one of the greatest times they have had in a long time.?

Tickets for The Great Reunion are on sale now for \$25 in advance, or \$30 on the day of the concert. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show. For more information, call the Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.