

Press Release***March 15, 2001*****Minnesota boy Jake Donze releases third CD**

Folk music's chance for a spot in the mainstream scene may have arrived. On March 15, Jake Donze releases "Minnesota Boy," his third album in which he weaves together an eclectic selection of original songs, all the while keeping grounded in the roots of catchy, lyric-intensive American folk music.

Known for his storytelling at live shows and his ability to embrace listeners with his music, Donze (pronounced "DAH-N-zee") has played nationwide since 1994. The 25-year-old singer/songwriter from Rochester, Minnesota performs around the Midwest at venues as varied as his music — coffeehouses, bars, bookstores, benefits and even graduations.

"Jake's fun and he's a great entertainer," said Paula Wheeler, owner of Rebekah's Coffeehouse and Museum in Plainview, Minnesota. "He's been well received by the audiences [here]. His music is engaging and fun to listen to."

Donze has been a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio and remains the only solo-artist ever to win the University of Wisconsin Battle of the Bands.

As for the new CD, Donze said he's ready for people to take it for a spin. "I'm very proud of this album," Donze said. "And I'm excited for the opportunity to share it with whomever will listen."

Minnesota Boy kicks off with the bluegrass-inspired "Catch the drift," followed by the jazzy "Autumn song." "Life's too short" — an upbeat tune with a catchy chorus and a solidly positive message — jumps in for track number 3. "Two wings" sweeps in next, a love song Donze wrote and performed for his eldest sister's wedding.

The title track "Minnesota Boy" is in the esteemed number 5 spot, and it will become a favorite. With a little harmonica and a friendly nod to WCCO, "Minnesota boy" could be Minnesota's unofficial state song. "You are my love" follows it up — an intricate, delicate love ballad that may be a solid choice for popular music playlists and enthusiasts.

"I'm 21" is a nostalgic tune, followed by "She means too much to me," which mixes it up a bit with an almost salsa-like blend of percussion. Next up is the emotional "Songs we all know" written for John Denver, one of Donze's earliest inspirations. And finally, as a final twist, the last song on the disc is the one with which he opens most of his live shows — "Coffeesong."

"People can relate to the content of Jake's songs," Wheeler said, "because they talk about common human things, like life and friends and feelings. His music is original and catchy — some songs are light and funny, others are more sweet. I like that — and so do the customers."

In addition to providing the vocals, Donze plays much of the music you hear on the new album — guitar, harmonica, percussion and drums. Greg Hintermeister, the album's sound engineer and co-producer, plays keys. Mark McGlinch, an accomplished bassist, adds his fretless instrumentation to a few songs, and Aaron Boyum adds his sweet violin on "Two Wings." Karl Ladin graphically designed the CD.

As an independent artist, Donze funds all of his recording and marketing efforts out of his own pocket. Everyone who worked on the album, including Donze, also works full-time elsewhere. But the results of Minnesota Boy are nothing but professional.

"It was truly a group effort," Donze said. "Lots of late nights, long hours and crazy schedules for everyone involved, but we all cared enough about the result to make it a successful project."

Donze notes that being an independent artist in charge of the bottom line, though expensive, does have its advantages.

"In the end, I had the final say on everything," Donze said. "And it's not often that any of us have that opportunity. A lot of responsibility goes along with paying the bills."

Donze recorded the album at Hint of Light Studios in Rochester, Minnesota, which is also where he recorded his second album "8 ½ Avenue" released in 1998. He recorded his first album, "the light in van hise," in Madison, Wisconsin in 1996.

The **CD release party** will be held April 14, 2001 at Willow Creek Golf Course (1700 48th Street SW) in Rochester, Minnesota. All ages are welcome. Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and CDs will be available. Doors open at 7:30 PM; music begins at 8 PM.

The new album will be available on the web at most of your favorite Internet music sites, at Broadway Records in Rochester, and by mail using the Order form found at www.jakedonze.com.

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CHECK IT OUT→ As a little surprise, Donze does what more and more musicians are choosing to do with the extra space at the end of the CD. Less than a minute after the 11th track, Donze greets listeners with a "Thanks for sticking around," and treats them to two live song duets with Will Ingle, former lead guitarist and vocalist of the Twin Cities band Dr. Fossil.

Jake Donze: Upcoming performances, spring 2001

March 24th (Saturday)

REBEKAH'S COFFEEHOUSE in Plainview, MN
8-10 PM

April 14th (Saturday)

CD RELEASE Willow Creek Golf Course in Rochester, MN
Doors open at 7:30 PM; Music begins at 8

May 26th (Saturday)

AROMAS COFFEEHOUSE in Zumbrota, MN
7-9 PM

June 19th (Tuesday) with the band

ROCHESTERFEST Main Stage by the Post Bulletin
11:45 -1:30 PM