

**"A memorable conclusion to Rose City Roots Music Season"
Submitted by Camille McLellan, *Camrose Booster*, 26 May 2009, 20.**



F & M were the featured performers for the last Rose City Roots Music Society event of the season. Left to right are: Bryan "Miot" Reichert, Ryan Anderson, and Becky Anderson.

Thanks to a couple of alarmingly attractive young men, my sister and I got seats close to the stage at Scalliwag's to enjoy the band F & M, proudly presented by the Rose City Roots Music Society May 9th.

With bittersweet elation, we awaited the society's last show of an amazing season of music and friendship. Warm faces flickered in the low lighting of the pub, oddly though not uncharacteristically intimate; there was definitely a sense of both closure and accomplishment that evening.

The audience reflected upon past seasons, congratulating the musicians, volunteers and sponsors, bar staff, and themselves for creating a place for diverse individuals to connect and share their thoughts through the common love of music.

F & M the Band was Becky, Ryan and Brian. They said they named their band after a German funeral parlour and this voice of mourning was strongly echoed in their harmonies. Lessons learned were laid bare as their mellow calm held us spellbound. Becky's voice was easy to get lost in and I often forgot to listen to the words when she was singing. She made the accordion sensual, something these young ears had never heard before.

Beautifully at ease, the trio awakened one's inner sensibilities to introspection, beckoning all to a life of acceptance with the solid back-up of Brian's electric guitar.

Ryan's final words on stage were "thanks for your thoughts." It's safe to say the crowd returned his gratitude and soft waves of understanding. Look to their rather cryptic website to hear what I mean at www.fandmtheband.com

Can music make you feel peacefully exuberant? I think so. Come find it with the Rose City Roots Music Society (RCRMS) next season. In case you haven't heard, the RCRMS is "a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the arts and culture community in rural Alberta by bringing exciting live music to Camrose and the surrounding area." Visit their website at www.rosecityroots.ca, or just come check a show.

The past year saw a delightful array of accomplished musicians perform at Scalliwag's, including local favourite Jaron Rovensky. The lineup for next season includes blues you can melt into from the Dusty Roads Band, Po' Girl with their original indie gospel style, the haunting Celtic voice of tales from The Gruff, four horsemen scathed and the wiser for it with Lions in the Street, and the brilliant and kind Scott Cook will be returning to Camrose with his band the Long Weekends.

Scalliwag's isn't the only joint in town selling the magical panacea of music. The Alice, Uncle B's, Cadillac's, Camrose Resort Casino, Camrose Regional Exhibition, Chuck MacLean Arts Centre, the Elks' Hall, the Legion, Merchants, the Old Cinema, Player's Club, the Windsor, Music in the Park, and the eagerly awaited renewed Bailey Theatre are a few of the other organizations in town making rocking their business. Keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to the melodies Camrose is offering, because business is good.

Camille McLellan is a Camrose freelance writer and music lover.