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MUSIC - ROOTS

ROGER MARIN

prefaced with pedal steel

By Spencer Brown

Roger Marin isn't so much the kind of songwriter who's heard as much as felt. With his combination of honest lyrics and rough-and-tumble life experience, Marin aims for the heart and hits it every time.

“My father and uncle were seven-night-a-week musicians,” says Marin from the studio while putting the finishing touches on his upcoming album *Silvertown*. “Growing up in Timmins, Ontario, we had guitars all over the house, but my uncle told me I couldn't play in the band unless I played pedal steel, so I took it up because it was my only option.” So, the 12-year-old Roger Marin took to the stage with his father and uncle playing an instrument that usually isn't

part of any pre-teen dreams of rock stardom. However, this experience helped develop the aspiring musician. “Bringing myself onstage when I was about 14, and sometimes playing guitar as well, I started playing with musicians with 30-40 years of experience and I learned to play sparsely. I learned that really young, when to play and when not to play,” says Marin.

All of his experience paid off unexpectedly after university. “I went to school for mechanical engineering and was working for Pepsi when I popped into this music store and saw a pedal steer



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