

# Men of Constant Sorrow have a lot to be happy about these days

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Anytime you ask who or what is worth catching on the Calgary roots music scene, a few names pop up with amazing consistency.

Tom Phillips and The Men of Constant Sorrow is one of those acts, and it's encouraging to see that this talented songwriter and his compadres continue to gather momentum in southern Alberta.

It wasn't that many years ago that numerous Calgary-based acts would complain to anyone who would listen that support just wasn't on par with the scene up here.

That's not the case these days, and Phillips has the figures and stats to prove that home-town Cowtown artists get a fair shake from their fellow citizens.

"We've sold 1,500 copies of our debut disc, which is what we manufactured and the majority of them were purchased right here in Calgary. Making

that album was the best thing the band could have done," Phillips says adamantly from his home base, where gigs these days are abundant — at least for The Men of Constant Sorrow.

The band, which this weekend will be seven members strong when it pulls up to Bonnie Doon Hall for a Full Moon Folk Club concert, gigs on a regular basis at popular pit stops for music, such as Karma Cafe, Kaos and the Night Gallery.

"Even the place where we first came together, King Henry VIII's, still brings us back. We're just unbelievably busy."

Not that it's difficult to figure out why once you've heard the man's songs. The appealing manner in which they are delivered live, fusing a rustic authenticity with charm, wins folks over in short order.

"We've got enough material for a new album, so we'll be playing lots of those songs Saturday night. The inspiration for material continues to come from the same sources, love gone wrong and barroom bravado," chuckled Phillips, whose crew includes Ron Dyck, a man who can really slap additional coats of personality on a tune with his squeezebox. Mandolinist Dave Hoffart and pedal-steel guitarist Charlie Vielleaux are also pivotal Men of Constant Sorrow.

Tickets for the show are \$13 in advance at Tix On The Square and Southside Sound; the price goes to \$15 at the door. Bonnie Doon Hall is located 9240 93rd St., and doors open at 7 p.m.