



# ACROSS THE BOARD

CALGARY IS PRODUCING WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS IN ALL DISCIPLINES

## MELTED MAGIC

**Tracy Slobodian** was looking for a creative outlet when she took a course that taught her how to make glass beads and jewellery just over a year ago. The attention her handmade glass beads drew led the University of Manitoba fine arts graduate to create Chartreuse Designs. Each bead is created with careful melting of straw-like tubes of coloured glass. Additional dabs of colour and textures must be added by heating other pieces of glass to various temperatures. "I always loved the smaller glass pieces you can have so much more control with them. You can spend more time doing it," says Slobodian. Each bracelet can take three to four hours to create and then each bead spends seven hours curing in a kiln. Slobodian not only routinely sells her wearable art at events like the Momprenueur holiday trade show last month but also via her website, [chartreusedesigns.ca](http://chartreusedesigns.ca). — *Anthony Charron*



## TELLING SECRETS

In the wake of its recent popularity, local indie-trio **Secret Broadcast** is not living up to its name. The band's moniker is a satirical comment on the indie scene itself. "We were poking fun at indie, commenting it was only cool if a few people liked it," says frontman Matt Lightstone. This summer, Secret Broadcast performed at the Virgin Music Festival in Calgary and prevailed over 300 other bands to be named the winners of the Oh Henry: What Feeds Your Hunger contest, earning them an appearance at Toronto's Virgin Fest. Even with flattering links to U2, the Police and the Pixies, the trio of John de Jesus, Bryan Craig and Lightstone believe they're creating something unique. "It's hard to define our music because we're so close to it," says Lightstone. "But if comparisons help people get a feel for our sound, so be it." Following the success of their five-song EP *Plastic Fantastic*, a full-length album and a nationwide tour are in the works. But, according to Lightstone, Secret Broadcast plans on playing things by ear. "We look like we're having the time of our lives on stage, because we are." — *Chris Phalen*

## CROSS-HARP COOL

The mighty harmonica gets some serious blues-cred from singer and musician **Richie Pollack**. With his jazz and rock-infused blues style, Pollack, who was awarded the title of 2008 Harmonica Player of the Year by the Calgary Blues Music Association (CBMA), has been treating Calgarians to his ferocious live performances for 15 years. Born in Janesville, Wisconsin, "Calgary's Cross Harp Ambassador" received his first harmonica as a child. The blues came into Pollack's life at age 15. "My brother gave me a wicked live Paul Butterfield LP," he says, "and I was hooked." Pollack moved to Calgary after high school in 1983, where he has since fronted several bands. "I love playing the harmonica and will hopefully introduce listeners to an approach that they may not have heard before," says Pollack. Though he recently relocated to Saskatchewan, Pollack plans to play Calgary often with his current band, Richie P. & Someone Else's Kids. For more information, visit [richiep.net](http://richiep.net) or [chronographrecords.com](http://chronographrecords.com). — *Carla Ciccone*

