

# Singer comes home to perform, plan U.S. tour

By **Tripp J Crouse**  
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>>>London-based singer-songwriter Keeley Filgo comes back to the Quad-Cities once a year to visit friends and family.

Last year, she played at Mojo's in the River Music Experience, but this year she'll be upstairs at the Redstone Room on Saturday night, Dec. 18.

"While I'm back, I'm planning a U.S. tour for the spring and summer, so I'll be sort of organizing that during the Christmas period while I'm here," Filgo, 24, said during a telephone interview from London.

While Davenport definitely will be on the list of tour stops, Filgo also wants to hit Chicago, New York, California, Texas and possibly Florida.

"I'm probably just going to go where I have connections in different parts of the country. It makes it a bit more fun then."

Filgo lived in the Quad-Cities between the ages of 6 and 19 years. A year after graduating from high school, she left the United States for England.

Her dual-culture upbringing exposed her to both American and English ways of life,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**London-based singer-songwriter Keeley Filgo comes back to the Quad-Cities once a year to visit friends and family.**

as evidenced in the classic country songs played by her father, which influenced her music, and the soft English accent she inherited from her British-native mother.

Keeley's father, Samuel Filgo, will perform a set at her Davenport show.

"My dad is a guitar player and a singer," she said. "He sort of plays the old country classics like Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson and that type of stuff. So I grew up listening to him play that stuff.

"Used to be when I was younger, I would sing harmonies on things that he was playing," she said. "We haven't tried to play together. When I go back to America, I borrow his guitar, so we share one guitar. Maybe I'll do a bit of harmony, singing with him on a couple of his songs or something."

Her mother listened to reggae music and R&B, another influence. As Keeley got older, the young musician began gravitating toward rock,

grunge and psychedelic rock. "A lot of the influences came from just meeting musicians and learning new ideas of how to play music with other musicians, collaborations and hearing new bands," she said.

Filgo plans to release a full-length album, which will include her familiar sound, along with new collaborations, next year.

"It'll be a bit folkier, maybe a bit more bluesy," she said.

## if you go

**Who:** Keeley Filgo, with special guests Samuel Filgo and Sarah Allner

**When:** 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18

**Where:** Redstone Room inside the River Music Experience, 129 Main St., Davenport

**How much:** \$7

**Information:** redstone-room.com

**On the Web:** myspace.com/keelefilgo

>>> **MORE ON ME:** *Line Keeley Filgo talk about British slang at qtimes.com/Goanddo.*

Filgo works for a human rights organization as her day job.

"I support people with mental illness and disability," she said. "It's different every day. It's nice to know that I'm doing something rewarding. It's nice to know that I'm doing something that has a purpose and just not for myself."

But her focus remains music.

"I do that in the daytime and I play my music. My music is my priority, so I still do my music as much as I can."

Filgo plays as often as she can, from gigs to busking, or performing on the street where passers-by throw money in her guitar case. It something she does just for fun.

When Filgo first moved to London about six months ago, she focused on performing. Lately she's been able to relate a little and soak up the city's music scene.

"The last couple of months, I've eased off performing and I've gotten to go to some really cool blues bars and have a jam and get to listen as well, which is good because you need to recharge and get inspired again."

## KEELEY FILGO — FIVE QUESTIONS

**1. Do you have any plans for joining a label or are you enjoying the independence?**

Right now I'm enjoying being independent. I haven't really tried to get signed by a label. I haven't been approached, either, to be honest. Right now I'm quite happy doing my own thing.

**2. Is there anything you miss about the United States?**  
I miss the food food, all the food. I miss my family and friends, and the sunshine.

**3. You played the sax when you were younger. Do you still**

**pick up the instrument from time to time or have you moved on to just the guitar and vocals?**

I'm trying to teach myself keyboard, too.

The sax, I haven't had interest in it since I was 14, but my parents still have my old sax in their garage. A couple of years ago, I tried to play it, but it needs some repair.

I'm thinking about getting it repaired while I'm back this year and maybe picking it up again just for fun.

**4. What do you like about living in London?**

I really love London. The city, the art, the music scene is really vibrant here. I'd come to London before I'd come to Digs, so I just really fancied the idea of coming here. The music networking is great.

**5. What are your plans for the new year? Any resolutions?**  
I'm going to move to Bristol. I'm trying to get it sorted out, so we'll see what happens, even if it's for a few months. I'm going to learn how to snowboard in March. I'm going to do a tour in the U.S. and the U.K. and maybe Europe, but we'll see.

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