

# Simon Walls

Rock Folk Pop



Simon Walls  
514-261-1121  
simon@simonwalls.com  
www.simonwalls.com

# Biography

Musician, multi-instrumentalist, traveler, adventurer. It is difficult to provide a single label for the work of Simon Walls. Since 2007, Simon has successfully managed to blend his unique brand of folk-rock and reggae with the sounds, the pictures and the stories of his travels. His new album "Klein Blue" is largely influenced by the people he met on his walk across Canada.

After releasing his first album "Don't Ask Your Eyes What The End Looks Like" to critical acclaim in 2007, Simon decided to promote his album in an incredibly unique and challenging way. He traveled to Spain with the goal of crossing the country from east to west using only his feet to navigate the 1,050 km between the French border and the Pacific Ocean. Along the way Simon filmed the music video for his single "Things I Will Give Up".

It was in 2010 that Simon felt ready for another challenge. For the release of his second album, Simon decided that he would walk across the 2nd largest country in the world. He began his 9000 km trek across Canada from Victoria, Bc to St. John's, NF on foot with his guitar on his back. He has recently completed his adventure in september 2011 and finished the recording of the album "Klein Blue".

As an emerging artist on the Canadian musical scene, Simon is also a young entrepreneur. He raised the money and recorded his first album "Don't ask your eyes what the end looks like" and his second "Klein Blue". After being the music teacher for the Tim Horton Children's Foundation, Simon has been part of many youth organisations. He also gave interviews for radios and newspapers across the country and was invited by Musique Plus to have a half hour TV show with him.



# General Information

## Up coming shows

Currently touring across Quebec opening for  
Pascale Picard Band

- Feb. 2, '12 - Terrebonne, Théâtre du vieux Terrebonne
- Feb. 3, '12 - Lachute, Resto-Bar Top Shot
- Feb. 9, '12 - Victoriaville, Pavillion Arthabaska
- Mar..1, '12 - St-Hyacinthe, Centre Juliette-Lassonde
- Mar. 2, '12 - Drummondville, Maison des arts Desjardins
- Mar. 15, '12 - Jonquière, Théâtre Palace
- Mar. 16, '12 - St-Georges-de-Beauce, Place de l'église
- Mar. 17, '12 - Montmagny, Salle Edwin-Bélanger

## Past shows

- Dec. 17, '11 - Laval, Salle André-Mathieu
- Nov. 24, '11 - Montréal, Club Soda
- Nov. 19, '11 - Québec, Le Grand Théâtre
- Oct. 7, '11 - St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Le Barock
- Oct. 2, '11 - Montréal, Lion d'or
- Sept. 30, '11 - Sorel, café les beaux instants
- Sept. 29, '11 - Waterloo, Maison de la culture
- Aug. 26, '11 - Halifax, Tribeca
- Aug. 19, '11 - Antigonish, Alcove
- Jul. 8, '11 - St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Cabaret Théâtre
- June 24, '11 - Montréal, Club Lambi
- May 30, '11 - Toronto, Cameron House
- May 28, '11 - London, The Museum
- May 19, '11 - Montréal, l'Inspecteur Épingle
- Apr. 2, '11 - Sherrington, Sherry Shack
- Jan. 5, '11 - Montréal, l'Alizé
- Oct. 16 '10 - Toronto, Underground Garage
- Oct. 15 '10 - Toronto, Rivoli
- Sept. 23, '10 - Sault Ste. Marie, Bottoms up Lounge
- Aug. 27, '10 - Thunder Bay, Black Pirates Pub
- aug. 26, '10 - Thunder Bay, Kilroy's
- Jul. 24, '10 - Regina, The Club
- June 19, '10 - St-Albert, Beer Hunter
- June 11, '10 - Edmonton, The Nest
- June 6, '10 - Banff, Storm Cellar
- June 3, '10 - Calgary, Dickin's Pub
- May 15, '10 - Kamloops, The art we are
- May 1, '10 - Vancouver, Tom Lee Music Hall
- Apr. 15, '10 - Montréal, Le petit Medley

## Other venues played

- Horseshoe Tavern, Toronto
- Wakestock Party, Toronto
- Cadillac Lounge, Toronto
- Club Soda, Montréal
- Patro Vis, Montreal
- Petit Campus, Montréal
- Ostradamus, Québec
- Zaphod Beeblebrox, Ottawa
- The Embassy, London
- Metric, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- Zaricot, St-Hyacinthe
- Port Mansion, Ste-Catharines

## Radio interviews

- CHLY Nanaimo
- CHOQ FM Toronto
- CIUT University of Toronto
- FM96 Kingston
- 100.7 Manitoulin Island
- CHOQ FM, Montréal
- CHYZ Québec
- CHOQ FM, St-Rémi
- Zradio, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu

## Newspaper interviews

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Canada Français      | Pat White         |
| Canadian Geographic  | Courier Laval     |
| Sticky Magazine      | Info-Culture.biz  |
| Chronicles Nanaimo   | Dans Tes Oreilles |
| The Record Kitchener | L'entract         |
| Coup d'oeil          | Le Reflet         |
| Chronik.ca           | Feu à Volonté     |

## TV interviews

- Balcony TV Toronto
- VOX TVRS Longueil
- Reportage 1/2 heure Musique Plus
- Radio-Canada Regina
- CKWS Kingston
- COGECO St-Hyacinthe

# CD Reviews



## Klein Blue - 2011

Producer: J.Y. André

Recorded: Studio Parc

Mastering: Pure Mastering

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1- Intro          | 8- It feels the same      |
| 2- Dear travelers | 9- Something I can change |
| 3- Down down down | 10- Any day               |
| 4- beautiful      | 11- Life's burn-in time   |
| 5- Such a face    | 12- Heroes don't fly      |
| 6- Up high        | 13- Heartbeats            |
| 7- Smell of blue  |                           |

"[...] Truly good [...] had a lot of fun to discover this album."

"I've been seduced by the warmth of the music [...] This CD is like a beautiful poetic novel sung with music of real softness"

"Accurate and charged with palpable emotions, we can feel easily the meandering emotions through his music [...] Klein Blue subscribes surely on the list of albums to listen to again and again on dark and warm summer nights."

"We're talking here of a cover from the major league, far beyond most of up and coming artists. And what we find on the CD is more impressive. It's clear to me that Simon Walls has become more mature. His lyrics can tell, even his way to sing. [...] Simon has perfected his style. We don't know how he does it, but he found a financial way for his ambitions. The production is spotless, the quality of the recording is impeccable."



- Sylvain Ménard



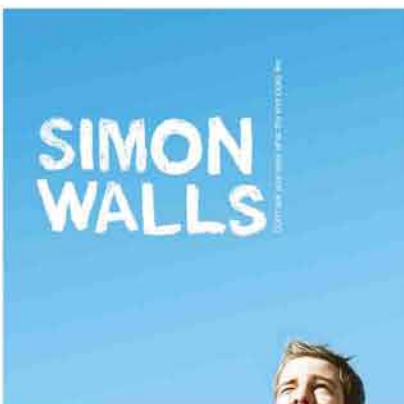
- Marie-Josée Boucher



- Aurélie Lanctôt



- Gilles Lévesque



## Don't ask your eyes what the end looks like - 2007

Producer: Simon Walls

Recorded: Studio Sixième Sens

Mastering: Studio Plasma

Simon Walls 514-261-1121 [simon@simonwalls.com](mailto:simon@simonwalls.com) [www.simonwalls.com](http://www.simonwalls.com)

"A CD filled of catchy tunes with a pop and melodic feel that will stay in your mind for a long time. This record is filled with emotions, sad and joyful, simply everything you need."

"The first thing that shook me is the quality of the recording. Once again, this is the perfect exemple of a musician from Quebec who knows how to give a professional sound to his CD. We can only applause the result and congratulate him for the emotion brought to the songs. We can feel right away that Simon has guts and the music proposed comes right to our hearts because we can feel that he is trying to reach us when we listen."



- Pascal Matte



- Julien

## Walking for music

### Montréal singer crosses Canada by foot

KITCHENER — Musicians have a tough time making a living in Canada and Simon Walls has managed to find a way to make it just a bit tougher not to mention physically dangerous, exhausting and lonely.

"You see, the Montréal singer/songwriter and youth worker decided the best way to promote his music would be to walk across Canada, become a travelling minstrel of sorts, dropping into venues to perform songs all the while hoping that recognition will be just around the next bend in the road. Perhaps his big break will come when he performs at Themuseum, in downtown Kitchener on Saturday.

"It's helping me get attention for my music," he said. "I think people will say 'hey, that's the guy who walked across Canada.'"

In 2008, the self-described adventurer spent five weeks hiking more than 1,000 kilometres in Spain following the ancient Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route and shooting a music video, *Things I Will Give Up*. It seemed only natural Walls would include an element of adventure into promoting his music in Canada yet along the way he has also discovered the kindness of strangers.

"People give you money, people give you a bed, people give you a meal," he said of the generosity of everyone to this wandering musician. "I think people in B.C. have been the greatest and Ontario is way beyond." He said even police have stopped to offer assistance.

In Kenora, while trying to cross the road, a man handed Walls \$50 then saw him again later and handed over another \$150. It seems that when folks understood he was spreading music around the country, they wanted to contribute.

"I have the website on my backpack," he said, noting the pack carries little more than a tent, cooking gear, camcorder and some clothing. His guitar travels separately by bus from town to town, arriving just in time for his next concert.

"I've gone through three sets of walking boots," he said. "I get about 1,700 kilometres per set." And while he hasn't really encountered many problems as he hikes on roads and the Trans Canada Trail, there was an incident in Saskatchewan when he awoke to snarling coyotes outside his tent. Of course he did what any red blooded Canadian musician would do: unzip his tent, pop out and brandish a hunting knife, effectively chasing the them away. "I don't remember much after that," he admitted.

Then there was an encounter with a black bear near Thunder Bay, though the bear soon scuttled off, no harm done. Walls wanted adventure and he has found it in the Canadian wilderness though the long trek has become about something more than just sharing his music. The lonely hours have given him time to think deeply about his life.

Along the way, he also hopes to spread the word about Free the Children in memory of a friend who committed suicide years earlier, a tragedy that had tremendous impact on Walls and lead him to devote much of his life to helping youth by teaching them music.

For three years Walls worked in a youth house in Montreal, saving \$6,000 for his trip while fruitlessly seeking sponsors. He launched his epic journey in Victoria, British Columbia in April of 2010, playing in Vancouver, Calgary, Banff, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay, wrapping up his summer tour in Toronto on Oct. 19 before returning home to Montreal for the winter. He will resume the second half of his tour this month in Toronto after kicking off his journey with a side trip to Kitchener. He plans to finish in St. Johns, Newfoundland at the end of September.

"I'm excited, I can't wait to do it," he said. "I'm going to touch the ocean."

Walls might also just touch the hearts of a few music lovers along the way.

[vhill@therecord.com](mailto:vhill@therecord.com)

#### Concert

Simon Walls performs

Saturday, May 28

Themuseum, 10 King St. W., Kitchener

Joel Gow plays 9:30 to 10:15 p.m. followed by Simon Walls

Website: [www.simonwalls.com](http://www.simonwalls.com)

## Walking across Canada

### Montréal musician Simon Walls walks across Canada, and other odd reasons to walk

By Laura Trethewey



Photo: Sandra Raymond

SIMON WALLS IS SITTING in the middle of the Saskatchewan prairies, knife in hand, as coyotes sniff at his tent. After 20 minutes, they scamper off and Walls (above) thanks his raunchy odour: the smell of a man who has walked more than 1,500 kilometres in about two months.

Over two summers, the Montréal musician will reach greater extremes of both distance and stench as he continues a gig-to-gig trek from Victoria to St John's. Canada's size seems to invite this kind of feat. Walls is promoting his music and looking for adventure; other marathon walkers in this country and beyond set forth for a range of reasons.




By Natalia Buia

When I had the offer to meet up and interview the French Canadian free spirit that is Simon Walls, I couldn't pass it up.

I met up with him at the Cameron House last Friday to have a pint and discuss his nomadic life. Since the 2007 release of his debut album, *Don't Ask Your Eyes What The End Looks Like*, he's been travelling to and fro, to explore not only the world but himself as well. Something I can easily relate to. The 24-year-old Montrealer began a 9,000 km walk across Canada – from Victoria B.C. to St. John's N.L. on foot. Yes, Walls has been walking the whole way, currently taking a winter break before moving on east. He calls it the You Can't Measure Your Own Heart Tour.

"I got the count this morning. I'm at 4,860 [km]" he says, laughing at my silly comment about how he probably carries around a Kellogg's Step Counter from a cereal box. As most people our age continue to rot in a selfish Generation-Me, Walls is amazed at the generosity of the locals he has met along the way.

"Every day you got people stopping to give you water, lunch, cooking a barbeque for you at night, giving you money!" he says with a big smile hidden in his thick beard. I asked him if there was any one specific act of kindness that sticks out to him. He takes a quick sip of his beer and recalls the night he endured a heavy storm in the small town of Kenora, Ontario.

"My tent broke, so I'm all wet and had to get back to a major city to get a new tent... I walk down a street a little mad, and a random dude just came up to me and gave me \$50." He continues to sing praise of this one giving individual, claiming he was given more money when they met again. Together, we lament at the lack of generosity amongst strangers here in the city.

Meeting with such genuine, inspirational people across Canada has lead Walls to pen some personal songs and excel in his song writing abilities. To me, he's both a songwriter and a storyteller.

"All the songs are pretty much songs about travel. Most of them I wrote when I was in Spain or when I was walking across Canada. I tell lots of stories about people I meet," he says. His video for "Things I Will Give Up" was independently filmed during his exploration of Spain.

"Being by yourself is the main challenge," he says.

He tells me he did prepare months before his excursion by going on day-long walks each week before succumbing to minor injuries.

"I knew Canada was really good but not that good. It makes you proud that this is your country," he says when I label him patriotic.

It's been 3 years since his album was released. Walls tells me he's back recording his new album in the winter in his hometown, then coming back to Toronto to promote the album and finish his walking tour.

Walls appears as one that has his heart and soul set on music. It's his fuel, his refuge. He tells me his experience with Katimavik, a Canadian youth volunteer program, when he was 18 inspired him to be a grab a guitar and write songs, even when everyone around him was pressuring him to be a dentist or lawyer.

"On the road I've been listening to a lot of CBC podcasts. I learned Spanish too which is pretty sweet," says the newly trilingual.

Walls loves reading and writing in his native tongue, French, but don't expect him to sing any songs in the language. Walls only started speaking English six years ago, and he's more comfortable singing in that language.

As the jazz band sets up inside The Cameron House and our pints are looking more half empty than half full, he wraps up the warm conversation by giving me the inside scoop on his musical itinerary; homecoming shows in Montreal as well as a future show with Gentleman Husbands – a favourite of mine – but he's still planning that one out.

I shook his hand and left the bar feeling invigorated. If we can just see half the beauty of Canada that Simon Walls has seen this year alone, we'd be so lucky.

# Basic requirements

## Acoustic set

Needs:

- 2 DI
- 2 mic stands
- 1 chair

Equipements:

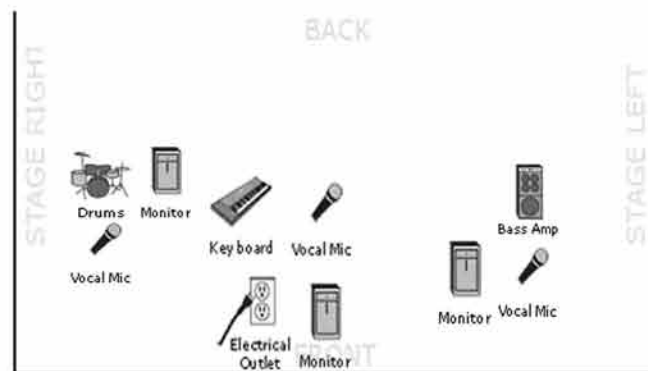
- Acoustic guitars
- keyboard
- Loop Station



## Band set

Needs:

- 2 DI
- 4 mic stands
- 1 chair
- Mics for drums
- 1 line out for bass amp



Equipements: Acoustic guitars, Keyboard, loop station, drums, bass, bass amp

## Songs list

- Dear travelers
- Down down down
- Beautiful
- Such a Face
- Up high
- What a wonderfull world (cover)
- Things I will give up
- Goodbyes and good lies
- 9 crimes (cover)
- Something I can can change
- One love (cover)
- Heartbeats
- Smell of blue
- It feels the same

