

Piermont musician finds freedom in the indie world

Audrey Green
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To be a successful independent artist, you've got to have talent — and you'd better know how to take care of business.

That's how Marc Farre has built his career. The Piermont-based singer, pianist and guitarist recently released his fourth album — the airy, orchestral indie-rock “LP Secret Symphony.”

“Making it in music is challenging these days, like never before,” says Farre.

“To be an indie artist, you have to be a great songwriter. You need good performance skills, excellent computer skills and business skills — you've gotta have it all,” he says.

But then, independence has its perks.

“If you make a great record, nothing is stopping you from spreading it around the world, from becoming a huge success,” he says. “You no longer need a major label, run by an accountant. There's a far more fertile environment for indie artists.”

Farre spent more than two years working on “Symphony,” after his

mother died of cancer. “The experience of losing her so suddenly ... I had done three albums before, but I felt this urgency, this need to make this album,” he says.

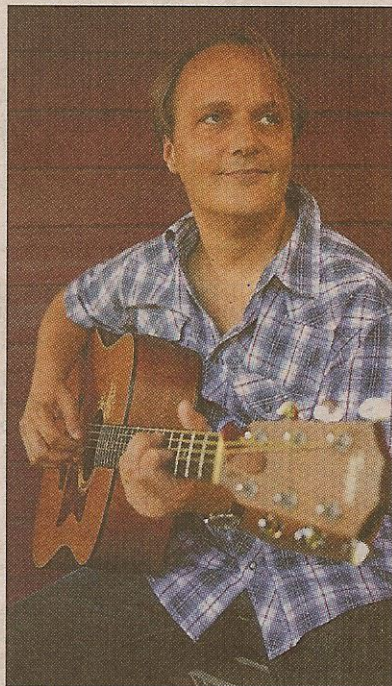
Though most songs are uplifting, in the last track — “Tiny Hymn” — you can feel his pain. “I wrote that when she was very sick; it came right out of my fingers,” he says.

“The more I learn to be vulnerable and open to what's going on, the better I become as a songwriter.”

For inspiration, he looks to the quirkier greats, Tom Waits among them. Though Farre sings mostly about romance, the night sky, and, simply, “about me,” the first track on “Symphony,” “Harry ...” is an “intense, dark fable that seems to be about somebody who killed somebody,” Farre says.

Of course, it isn't autobiographical, but the percussion-heavy “English Murder Ballad” is reminiscent of Waits' subjects: bizarre, seedy characters, sung with a touch of gruff, bringing them to life.

In the fall, Farre plans to release another album, “One Hand in the Night,” also independent. Recorded at the famous Studio la Buissonne in his native



Elizabeth Orozco/The Journal News
Singer, pianist and guitarist Marc Farre at his home in Piermont.

South of France, it features two up-and-coming jazz musicians — and a whole new sound.

Farre says it exemplifies just another advantage of working the indie scene: “I did the record I really wanted to do, on my own terms.”

Finding Marc Farre

You can listen to Marc Farre's music online (marcfarre.com), and his albums are available from Amazon.com, CDBaby.com, and iTunes. Here are his fall gigs:

■ The Living Room:

\$5 suggested tip; 7 p.m. Sept. 14; 154 Ludlow St.; New York; 212-533-7235; livingroomny.com

■ The Turning Point

Café: \$10; 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30; 468 Piermont Ave.; Piermont; 845-359-1089; turningpointcafe.com

■ Riverspace Sound-

Bites Series: \$15; 8 p.m. Nov. 8; 119 Main St.; Nyack; 845-348-1880; riverspace.org