

# LOCAL BAND MIXES POWER POP, COUNTRY TWANG IN NEW CD

By Sharon Dargay  
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Jeremy Porter has always played an acoustic set for his gigs at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

But this Friday the hometown singer/songwriter will turn up the juice.

"For the first time we'll do an electric set. We'll tone it back. We won't blow the windows out of the place. We're going to do a restrained version. Usually we're a pretty rowdy, fast band, but it wouldn't be appropriate to do there. It's not that kind of room. We're not going to scare anyone away. It will be at an appropriate volume," Porter said.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, in downtown Plymouth; (734) 454-0178. Emily Rose opens the show, followed by Jeremy Porter & The Tucos.

"The Coffee Bean is a cool place. It's all ages, it's an earlier show, there's no alcohol and it's an artist-friendly environment. We don't play



Jeremy Porter & The Tucos perform Friday, Aug. 16, at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

around Detroit often. We haven't played this part of the state since May. It's always been a tough market for us. We do better outside of Detroit, but we still like to play here."

The band's all-acoustic concert at the Plymouth Coffee Bean in May 2012 yielded a CD of five songs recorded in concert, *Live and Acoustic at the Plymouth Coffee Bean*.

Since releasing their new CD, *Partner in Crime*, earlier this year, Porter, bass player Jason Bowes of Livonia and drummer Gabriel Doman of Dearborn, have performed mostly at bars, nightclubs, as well as at a few theaters and summer festivals in and out of Michigan.

"This band has more of that country feel to it mixed in with the power

pop stuff," Porter described their music. "I've always been a fan of country music, Americana and alternative country."

But it was a Christmas song that brought the trio together in late 2011. Porter, who has played with local bands such as SlugBug, the Offramps and Fidrych, over the years, went solo in 2010. After releasing the solo



Jeremy Porter & the Tucos released "Partner in Crime" a mix of pop rock and country twang.

acoustic CD, *Party of One*, he toured nationwide, but began to miss the camaraderie of playing with other musicians.

When Suburban Sprawl Music invited him to participate in its annual compilation of Christmas music, he asked Doman and Bowes to record with him.

## Road trips

"I knew I wanted to do it with a band. For me, it was an excuse to get down into the studio in the fall and come up with something and it was a great catalyst to get a band together."

The band recorded a holiday tune for Suburban Sprawl's website

and "three weeks later we were playing our first show," Porter said.

"It was clear we were all on the same page musically. We were having fun. We got off to a good start. I knew I wanted to travel more with this band, so we did road trips."

Porter, who is married and works in web development for an automotive supplier, tours on weekends or takes brief week-day trips.

The band spent most of last year in the studio working on *Partner in Crime*, but has toured extensively since then, promoting the CD.

"We're going to Canada next month and we have shows booked in October and November. I'd love to do something overseas at some point, but we have no concrete plans in place."

Look for a new single, *Plan B*, to be released by the group in September. Like *Partner in Crime*, it will be on the Detroit-based New Fortune Records label.

Visit the band's website at [www.thetucos.com](http://www.thetucos.com) for information.