



RAY HARRIS

Americana, Alternative, Country Music

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**“WEST VIRGINIA COAL MINE” SONG, A TRIBUTE FROM CANADIAN
COUNTRY MUSIC ARTIST RAY HARRIS**

OTTAWA, ON, JUNE 7, 2010: Ray Harris, a country/roots singer-songwriter from Canada’s national capital Ottawa, has pre-released “West Virginia Coal Mine” as a tribute to the people of Raleigh County who tragically lost twenty-nine of their own this past April at the Upper Big Branch mine explosion. “Watching the news coverage, I felt the impact of that explosion here at a gut level” says Harris “and when a company spokesperson told the world that ‘nobody suffered’ in the explosion, all I could think about were the families and friends of the deceased.”

“West Virginia Coal Mine”, written the week following the accident and recorded this past month in Ottawa, has an up-beat tempo but a lament-filled message about the dangers of mining. “It expresses my outrage at the history of safety concerns that have largely gone ignored by that industry. Big companies, motivated solely by profit, seem to ignore the working class family’s struggle.” says Harris whose father, uncle and grandfather had all worked in Canadian mines. “They weren’t career miners but you just knew that their health had been affected by the work.” says Harris. “So much more can and should be done for the people who work below ground to provide energy and fuel for the rest of us. I hope this song provokes some changes for the better.”

Ray Harris, long active in the Ottawa Valley music scene, released his debut CD “East End, West End, North End, South End” in 2009 - his music can be heard on Canada’s CBC Radio, various commercial radio stations, and international public radio. “West Virginia Coal Mine” [4:18], a track written for his upcoming second CD, was released early to honor the people of Montcoal and surrounding area. It can now be heard on-line at www.myspace.com/justrayharris and will be made available for radio broadcast by e-mailing Ray Harris directly.

SONG CREDITS: Ray Harris (words & music, lead vocals, acoustic guitar), Steve Donnelly (upright bass, harmony vocals, percussion, recording/mixing/mastering), Tom Pechloff (organ, harmony vocals), Shawn Brown (electric guitar), Seamus Mulready (banjo, harmony vocals), Anastasios Basiliadis (drums, percussion), and Rob Smith (harmony vocals). “West Virginia Coal Mine” was recorded at TenVolt Audio in Ottawa, CANADA.