

# Entertainers of the Month

## Samantha Clark-Smith and Donovan Berg

The Coconut Telegraph is proud to present Samantha Clark-Smith and Donovan Berg as Artists of the Month for September. Sammy and Donovan make a great team. With two open minds and diverse backgrounds, the end result is something quite extraordinary.

Lured by the water and the inspiration the Keys are famous for, Sammy comes to us all the way from Ketchikan, Alaska. Music started at home for Samantha at the age of 8 under the tutelage of her vocal coach mother. She soon moved on to become part of the local community theater scene in Ketchikan. Growing up in a small town, Sammy added to her repertoire by teaching herself the guitar. However, with encouragement from locals and other musicians, it is here in Key Largo where she took the next step and started performing on stage.

Samantha has a creative approach with her set lists drawing on everything from rock to rap and reggae. She is influenced by Stevie Nicks, Norah Jones, Jack Johnson, Bob Marley, Regina Spektor, and Joni Mitchell just to name a few. She can cover several genres of



music with ease and is an absolute pleasure to watch.

Donovan comes to us from Long Island and loves to play world ethnic music. He has studied his craft under George Parker and The Matecumbe Drum Band. Hand drumming just shy of 10 years, his music has already taken him to Jamaica to participate in the Fi Wi Sinting festival, a celebration of the country's African heritage. Closer to home you may have seen The Matecumbe Drum Band at the Morada Bay full moon celebrations. Through open mics around the Upper Keys he has taken his ethnic drumming background and learned to apply it to modern music.

Together the pair presents a show that is only as predictable as their friends shouting out requests. Between Sam's drive to take almost any song and make it acoustic, and Donovan's world beats their music becomes its own melodic concoction with a side of spicy rhythm. The two have played around town at venues such as the Pilot House, Bayside Grill, and the Hilton. They are currently at Coconuts every Saturday from 6 to 9pm.

• Written by **Nick Charles**

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