

MARIE-LYNN HAMMOND

“One of the best contemporary singer-songwriters in Canada”

— *Estelle Klein, Mariposa Folk Festival co-founder,*
& *Gary Cristall, Vancouver Folk Music Festival founder*

Marie-Lynn Hammond is acknowledged as **one of Canada’s premier songwriters**. In the mid-1990s, her music was discovered by an American folk fan and sound engineer, Richard Hess. In 1999 he founded Vignettes Media to release Marie-Lynn’s out-of-print albums. In 2003 she released her **fifth album, *Pegasus***, and in 2013 after a ten-year hiatus due to a major accident, she released not one but two new CDs, *Creatures* and *HoofBeats*.

quintessentially Canadian Half English, half French, Marie-Lynn writes and sounds like no one else. Her songs, **in both official languages, touch your heart, your mind, and your funny bone**. From the anthem-like “La Tête anglaise, le coeur français,” to the satirical wit of “Canadian Love,” to “Omaha,” a poignant ballad about losing her sister, she isn’t afraid to be personal—or provocative. Her writing provides **fascinating vignettes of Canadian life**, both current and historical, as seen through her sharp yet compassionate eyes.

Stringband co-founder In the early 1970s, Marie-Lynn and Bob Bossin founded the **legendary and indie-pioneering Canadian folk group, [Stringband](#)**. Criss-crossing Canada for 15 years, they also made international forays including Japan, Mexico, Great Britain, the former USSR, and the USA. **They reunited the summer of 2013** to play **The Vancouver Folk Festival** and **The Winnipeg Folk Festival**, 40 years after they performed at Winnipeg’s very first festival.

eclectic solo career Along with her Stringband work, Marie-Lynn has enjoyed a parallel solo career that includes appearances at nearly every major folk festival in Canada. In the 1980s her songs about her bicultural family grew into **a play, *De Beaux Gestes & Beautiful Deeds*, which garnered critical acclaim** and several productions. She has written or co-written four more plays and a screenplay (all produced), has **hosted two national CBC radio shows**, and also developed a career as a **freelance editor and writer**.



continuing creativity In 2006 Marie-Lynn Hammond had a serious accident, which required **two years of recovery** and left her with a disability. But she **kept on writing songs**, enough for the two new CDs. These lines from her song “The Canadian,” about Canada’s endangered National Horse, could well apply to Marie-Lynn herself: *“Ain’t that just the Canadian way it goes / To have something special and no one knows...”*

Cobourg resident In 2015 Marie-Lynn moved to Cobourg, ON, planning to retire. It hasn’t happened—she’s since played several venues in the area. Now in 2021, like most musicians, she awaits you on the other side of the pandemic, with **a July gig booked already near Perth, ON**.

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