

MARIE-LYNN HAMMOND

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

(Estelle Klein, Mariposa Folk Festival co-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 ten years later, after recovering from a major accident in 2006, **she’s back with not one but two new releases, *Creatures* and *HoofBeats***.

quintessentially Canadian

Half English, three-eighths French, and one-eighth Aboriginal (Abenaki), Marie-Lynn embodies the amalgam that is Canada, and writes and sounds like no one else. The range of her work, in both official languages, is impressive: **her art touches 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**. Tirelessly criss-crossing Canada for 15 years, they also made international forays including Japan, Mexico, Great Britain, the former USSR, and the USA. **They will reunite 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 every major folk festival in Canada**. In the early 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 currently works as a freelance editor and writer.

continuing creativity



In 2005 Marie-Lynn Hammond moved to Stouffville, ON. Soon after, a serious accident necessitated **two years of recovery** and left her with a visual disability. **But she’s back, with two new CDs of original material**. These lines from her song “The Canadian,” about Canada’s rare and special National Horse, could well apply to Marie-Lynn and many of her peers in the Canadian roots community: **“Ain’t that just the Canadian way it goes / To have something special and no one knows...”**

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