

Sounds of Christmas

Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and singer Eleanor McCain to perform in Stephenville

By CHRISTOPHER VAUGHAN

THE GEORGIAN

The holiday season will come alive when the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and singer Eleanor McCain present their "Holiday Pops" concert at Stephenville's Arts and Culture Centre.

"I love Christmas, it's my favourite time of year," said Ms. McCain, a native of Florenceville, NB, who will be performing various songs from her 2011 Yuletide-themed album, "Holiday."

"It was always a longtime dream of mine to record a Christmas CD. That's why there are actually two discs on the CD – because there's just so much music I love."

The first half of the upcoming show will feature Ms. McCain and the orchestra performing up-tempo and jazzy secular selections, while the second half will include more intimate and traditional carols.

"The one I always gravitate to is 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,'" said Ms. McCain when asked about her favourite song to perform live. "The words really speak to spending time with family and friends. I love the meaning of that."

She noted performing with a live orchestra adds an extra-special touch to the songs.

"It's kind of hair-raising, actually. It gives you goose bumps because the sound coming from that many people and the music –



Eleanor McCain and the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra will be performing at Stephenville's Arts and Culture Centre on Dec. 18. Submitted photo

it just feels like it's wrapping you up in a blanket. It's so gorgeous, especially at Christmas."

"Holiday Pops" takes place on Dec. 18. Joining Ms. McCain and the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra at the show will be special guests Caroline Schiller and the Bay of Islands Musical Arts Chorus.