

# New Brunswick native Eleanor McCain to record with 10 Canadian orchestras for upcoming album

DRAKE LOWTHERS Telegraph-Journal

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SAINT JOHN • Eleanor McCain will be recording two songs with Symphony New Brunswick for her upcoming album, True North: The Canadian Songbook, at the Imperial Theatre on March 26.

The album, which will celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, will be recorded using 10 orchestras from across the nation. It will consist of orchestral stylings of 32 of the nation's best-known songs, and will feature one original.

"This is a real opportunity to showcase Canadian orchestras," McCain said. "We're trying to be as diverse and inclusive as we can across the country."

The Florenceville native said the idea for this album began in January 2014.

"I sat on it for a year, to see if a project like this was possible," McCain said. "It wasn't until last year until I decided to move forward with it in some concrete kind of way."

McCain is extremely pleased on how the project has developed in the past year.

"Everybody's putting a lot of their heart and soul into this project," she said. "It has been hard and complex but it's so fulfilling."

On a project as big as this, McCain said it really does take a group effort to make it a success.

"This could not be possible without the incredible group of people behind me," she said.

McCain will be joined on the road by Emmy Award-winning album producer Don Breithaupt, conductor Martin MacDonald and orchestral recording engineer Jeremy Tusz.

"I'm very humbled by everyone's expertise and their passion for this project," she said. "It's so exciting to work with other passionate people and our amazing orchestras."

McCain has coined her signature sound as a classical crossover artist who has infused her stylings with celtic and jazz.

“My foundation is classical,” she said. “The biggest thing that brings all these styles together for me, comes from an emotional place.”

Symphony New Brunswick general manager Jennifer Grant said she feels honoured to work with McCain.

“It puts us up there along with everyone else,” Grant said. “It’s very much a feather in our cap.”

Grant said Symphony New Brunswick will be recording the symphony section of two songs from the album.

“She’s faithful to New Brunswick and loves coming back home, it makes us very proud,” Grant said. “It’s wonderful for the future of the music in the province.”

McCain said it was important for her to work alongside Symphony New Brunswick on this project, both musically and personally.

“New Brunswick is fortunate enough to have a wonderful symphony,” McCain said. “Being a Maritimer is very important to me and recognizing my roots and where I come from is very important to me.”

McCain will make 10 stops as she tours Canada from March to June.

True North: The Canadian Songbook is scheduled for release in the spring of 2017 on Retriever Records in time for Canada’s Sesquicentennial birthday.

In addition to the True North album, a coffee table book featuring Canadian landscapes captured by prominent photographers will accompany the CD. There will also be a documentary filmed on the process of creating the album.

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