

Eleanor McCain releases 'Holiday' CD

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FLORENCEVILLE - Some of Eleanor McCain's favourite holiday memories are of Christmases spent in her hometown of Florenceville.

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Toronto resident Eleanor McCain's memories of Christmases in Florenceville inspired her to record 'Holiday', her fourth CD.

"I miss the stillness and quiet of a snowy Christmas eve in Florenceville," she said. "I have such happy memories of those days and my mother playing with me at church, as I sang either with the choir or alone."

McCain, who now calls Toronto home, pulls from those warm Christmas memories on her latest CD, Holiday.

"I have been dreaming about doing a Christmas CD for most of my life. My mother has always been passionate about Christmas and she has instilled that passion in me. Growing up, we loved listening to Christmas recordings and performing Christmas music during the Christmas season," she said. "This year seemed to be the right time."

Holiday is McCain's fourth CD. Her third recording, Green Hills of Home, was nominated for an ECMA.

Holiday was produced and arranged by producer and musician, Brigham Philips, with assistance from Juno-award winning sound engineer John "Beetle" Bailey.

"I feel very humbled by the talents of the many people who helped with the recording of this CD," McCain said.

"It was such a privilege to work with them all - not to mention the fun we had making it. This album would not have been complete without their contributions and for that, I am grateful."

The two-disc CD contains 19 classic holiday songs.

McCain said she had too much music for just one disc, and the songs fell into two groups - a "naughty" side for the secular, up-tempo, jazz selections; and a "nice" side for the intimate, traditional and choral tracks.

The "naughty" collection takes an up-tempo twist on hymns such as God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and What Child is This?; and features a jazz influence on secular favourites.

"The classic secular songs remind me of my father, as he loved these songs and he loved the jazz style they are played in," McCain said.

Her father, Wallace McCain, passed away in May.

"I think of him when I play these songs," she said. "We will miss him very much this Christmas."

McCain and her daughter, Laura David, joined voices for Let There Be Peace on Earth.

Holiday is available at www.eleanormccain.ca. The CDs are \$19.95 plus tax, shipping and handling.

Copies are also for sale at Sarah L. Taylor Spa/Esthetics in Florenceville-Bristol.