

Canadian Folk Music

Musique folklorique canadienne



Catherine MacLellan (photo by Patrick Nicols)

Special Issue on Canadian Singer-Songwriters

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Joel Kroeker

Ron Hynes

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From the Editor

I'm pleased to introduce this special issue of *Canadian Folk Music* on Canadian singer-songwriters. This issue seeks to shed some light on a question that many of us who research and perform Canadian music (of all genres) are asked frequently: what is "Canadian" about Canadian music? The feature articles, interviews, and songs in this issue explore this question from a variety of different perspectives and from across the country. First, Chris McDonald examines the life and career of Cape Breton Island's John Allan Cameron and his impact on the Canadian folk music scene. "Canuck Bard" Joel Kroeker reflects on his experience as a touring musician and the reception of Canadian music abroad. Anthropologist Véronique Audet explores the musical life of Innu folk-rock-pop singer-songwriter Claude McKenzie. The issue also features three interviews: our very own *CFM* editor, Gillian Turnbull, contributes excerpts of her conversation with Canadian blues singer-songwriter Kat Danser about women in blues, while I talk to P.E.I.'s Catherine MacLellan about the Canadian folk scene, performance jitters, and being a singer-songwriter in an era of digital music. Finally, Andy Hillhouse wraps up the issue with an interview with B.C.-based singer-songwriter Alex Cuba. Interwoven throughout the issue are transcriptions of songs by Alberta's Sid Marty, Ontario's Wendell Ferguson, Newfoundland icon Ron Hynes, Saskatchewan's Norm Walker, and New Brunswick Acadian Monique Poirier.

Thank you to the contributors and artists for being part of this issue and to Noémi Doyon, whose article on Québec's Ariane Moffatt will appear in an upcoming issue. A special thanks to John Leeder for his assistance with the song selection and to Marion McLeod and Ian Hayes for their song transcriptions. Those of us who participated in the Society's song circle at the 2011 ICTM/CSTM World Conference in St. John's will remember John's wonderful performance of Ferguson's song "Rocks and Trees" and I'm thrilled that he offered to contribute the lyrics of the song to this issue so that we can learn it also!

We've taken advantage of *CFM*'s online multimedia possibilities, so you'll find a number of links to video and audio examples, as well as to the artists' websites and blogs. Enjoy!

Meghan Forsyth

The editorial address of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne* is

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