



Natalie MacMaster

with

Natalie MacMaster Fiddle

Mac Morin Piano

Shane Hendrickson Bass

Eric Breton Percussion

Nate Douglas Guitar

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Set list will be announced from stage.

Friday, March 15 at 7:30 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Natalie MacMaster

Natalie MacMaster is a member of the Order of Canada as well as a Juno award winner. She has released 11 albums, the majority of which have reached gold status (50,000 records sold). MacMaster received an honorary doctorate from St. Thomas University and honorary degrees from Niagara University, NY and Trent University. MacMaster is best known as a virtuoso fiddler, thrilling audiences around the world – including those at Carnegie Hall and Massey Hall—with her invigorating prowess while serving as a music ambassador to her beloved traditional Cape Breton sound. Married to fellow fiddler Donnell Leahy of Leahy, the mother of four performs an average of 100 dates a year and co-hosts the annual Leahy Music Camp with her husband and his band in Lakefield, Ontario. MacMaster has appeared multiple times on the CBC, *Canada A.M.* and Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. She has also warmed the hearts of TV viewers with guest spots on Christmas specials like *Rita MacNeil's Christmas* and *Holiday Festival On Ice* with Olympic ice skaters Jamie Sale, David Pelletier, Kurt Browning and world champion Jeffrey Buttle.

MacMaster's talents have also been in-demand by her peers, contributing to albums by Ma, The Chieftains, children's entertainer Raffi, banjo prodigy Béla Fleck, fellow fiddling marvel Alison Krauss (with whom MacMaster played a duet on Krauss's *A Hundred Miles Or More: A Collection*), Dobro specialist Jerry Douglas, singer Hayley Westenra, former Doobie Brother and classic R&B interpreter Michael McDonald and most recently, Thomas Dolby's new album *Map Of The Floating City*. In turn, such stellar talents as Grammy®-winning fiddlers Krauss and Mark O'Connor, "Jesus, Take The Wheel" songwriter Gordie Sampson, Nuevo Flamenco guitarist Jesse Cook, members of The Rankin Family, Edgar Meyer and Alison Brown are just some who have contributed to MacMaster's own projects through the years. Most recently, Macmaster has added "author" to her impressive list of accomplishments, publishing the picturesque 161-page coffee table book *Natalie MacMaster's Cape Breton Aire* with Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Eileen McNamara and featuring Boston-based Eric Roth's breathtaking photography. Recently awarded the prestigious Arts & Letters Award from the Canadian Association of New York, Natalie's latest album, *Cape Breton Girl*, described by the artist as a "straight-ahead, traditional record," was released 2011.

Mac Morin (Piano)

Mac Morin is a dancer as well as a piano and keyboard player. He is a native of Troy, Cape Breton and many of his ancestors were noted Cape Breton step dancers for several generations (including his mother, Mary C. MacDonald Morin and his grandfather, John R. "Roddie Eddie" MacDonald). Morin has been dancing for more than 10 years. He was first taught by his mother and then received dance training under the talented Warner sisters of Mabou, Cape Breton. Since then he has taken on the role as teacher in various private and workshop venues across North America and Europe.

Morin first became interested in playing piano at the age of 16. He was fortunate to be able to listen to some of the best fiddle players on the Island of Cape Breton and began to accompany them at parties) and a square set here or there at one of the local dances. His first, public gig was at a wedding where Buddy MacMaster was playing. MacMaster's piano player couldn't make it, and he convinced Morin to jump on the piano.

After enjoying the music scene on the island, Mac began touring regularly with Natalie MacMaster. He was a part of her band for two years and left in the spring of 2001 to tour more regularly with Beolach (www.beolach.com), a band made up of several musician friends (Wendy MacIsaac, Mairi Rankin, Patrick Gillis and Ryan J MacNeil).

For the next five years, Morin toured North America and Europe alongside Beolach. During that time he continued to play with Natalie MacMaster on several occasions (Carnegie Hall for the Peter Jennings Tribute with Allison Krauss and Yoyo Ma, Corporate shows with Natalie and her husband, Donnell Leahy and more) and was part of Howie MacDonald's summer show, a regular to Cape Breton since the summer of 2000. Morin has been playing with Natalie MacMaster since the summer of 2006 and within that time, has recorded and toured with The Rankin Family, Howie MacDonald, Mary Jane Lamond, Béla Fleck, Ian MacDougall and members of Beolach. He continues to travel to teach Cape Breton step dancing.

In the fall of 2003, Morin released a self-titled CD consisting of 17 tracks of traditional and contemporary Cape Breton music. The recording features several Cape Breton musicians (and some of their compositions) as well as some former Natalie MacMaster band members. Morin is currently working on a second recording.

Shane Hendrickson (Bass)

Coming from a small prairie town of 50 people with no other musicians around isn't the best way to start a musical career but that's how it worked for Shane Hendrickson. Armed with a used Sears department store bass and a lot of determination (plus a huge dose of luck), Hendrickson made his way from the small town to the bigger cities. Starting at the bottom and working his way up, he was soon surrounded by incredible musicians who helped him hone his skills. Fast forward many years later to a call from the Celtic powerhouse, Leahy, to fill in for their bassist and Hendrickson found himself thrown in the middle of the Celtic music world. It was through his work with Leahy that he caught the ear of Natalie MacMaster, and the rest, as they say, is history. As Hendrickson explains, "I am extremely fortunate to have the honor of playing with Natalie and her team of amazing musicians. It's like I won the musicians lottery!"

Éric Breton (Percussion)

For over 15 years, Éric Breton has specialized as a percussionist in World Beat music. Under Luc Boivin's wing at *Université du Québec à Montréal*, he developed his knowledge of Latin and popular percussions. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with various artists from an array of horizons and backgrounds that have helped him to hone his art form and more specifically world music and percussions. Breton's most recent work has lead him to enrich and adapt his repertoire to include music as broad as Algerian, Moroccan, Irish, Peruvian, Argentinean, Spanish and Indian as well as traditional Québécois music. Renowned and respected as an artist and percussionist in Montreal's World Beat community, Breton regularly shares the stage with different groups such as Ragleela, Arométis, Gravity Trio, Massiel Yanira, Trio Expresso and flamenco companies and projects.

Nate Douglas (Guitar)

Born in Barrie, Ontario, Nate Douglas began to study jazz, blues and classical guitar during his high school years. In 2005, he won the Joyce Langford Rosebowl in the Barrie Kiwanis Music Festival. He then continued his studies at the University of Western Ontario where he received his Bachelor of Music Education degree. After studying classical guitar at Western, Douglas continued to pursue his long-time interest in jazz at Humber College.

Douglas is an active musician throughout Ontario playing in various groups and bands ranging from traditional Irish/Celtic groups to heavy rock bands. Alongside session work, Douglas is frequently involved with Barrie's music theatre scene as lead guitarist. Some recent productions include: *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Rent*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Full Monty*. When not playing, Douglas teaches guitar privately and at various music camps in Ontario.