



Press Release

A first for Mary Barry at Place des Arts; “La Fille de la Mer” creates magic on stage at the Studio-théâtre with *Chansons Irisées*

St. John's (Newfoundland and Labrador), April 12, 2011- “La Fille de la Mer” (Girl of the Ocean), and singer [Mary Barry](#), invites lovers of French “chanson” and jazz & blues to a memorable evening at the Studio-théâtre at Place des Arts in Montreal on Saturday May 7, at 8 pm for the Montreal launch of her first French album entitled *Chansons Irisées* (*Songs of Irridescence*).

A native of St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, the charming and very talented Mary Barry will present the concert “Chansons Irisées” during the Week-ends de la chanson Quebecor. The concert will feature songs from the album of the same name, which was recorded entirely in French in 2009 in Quebec City, under the expert guidance of the late Bruno Fecteau, the longtime arranger and musical director for Gilles Vigneault. With this fourth album, Francophile Mary Barry has made it to the short list of nominees for Best Francophone Recording at the East Coast Music Awards (ECMA) 2011.

As the album’s name suggest, *Chansons Irisées* is a veritable rainbow of melodies that range in styles from ballad, to blues, to cabaret, all sung in Mary’s signature sweet smokiness, so well suited for the journey that she takes you on ---directly, yet tenderly, through the changing landscape of your soul. As music reviewer, Marc Lalonde wrote at www.centrart.qc.ca. “This pianist, singer-songwriter from Newfoundland and Labrador called on the genius of the late Bruno Fecteau for the musical direction and production of this gem. *Chansons Irisées* is the type of album you listen to in one shot, as if being carried away by the wind and the sea on board a sailboat,” commented Marc Lalonde.

This recognition adds another feather to Mary's cap, which currently sports the titles of Female Artist of the Year and Jazz & Blues Artist of the Year, awarded by Music NL in 2004 and 2007. Mary's second album *These Days* was nominated for ECMA Jazz Recording in 2005 and her third album, *Red Eye Tonight*, also earned her a nomination in 2009 for an ECMA in the Jazz Recording of the Year category. Mary Barry is the recipient of several songwriting awards, including the CBC Atlantic Song Contest, the Newfoundland & Labrador Arts & Letters Awards and two-time recipient of the FACTOR Professional Publishers/Songwriters Demo Award. In 2006, she was semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition, becoming the only Canadian to advance to this level in the Jazz category.

While Mary was born and currently lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, she spent 10 years living and making music in Quebec in the 1980's and 1990's. "In 1982 I went to Quebec to visit a friend for three days and my love affair with Quebec lasted 10 years, seven years in Quebec and three in Montreal," said Mary.

Both *Chansons Irisées*, Mary's first French album, and this upcoming first-time performance at Place des Arts is a homage to the second home that her heart chose so fatefully for her years ago. And after losing her long-time friend and collaborator, Bruno Fecteau in January of this year, she is honoured to dedicate the Montreal launch of "Chansons Irisées" to his memory.

This event is in collaboration with Musicaction, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, the Réseau culturel francophone de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, the Société pour l'avancement de la chanson d'expression française, Place des Arts and Week-ends de la chanson Quebecor.

Tickets can be purchased online at <http://laplacedesarts.com/pda-evenement/6800>

To learn more, listen and visit: www.marybarry.ca

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The Réseau culturel francophone de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador (Francophone Cultural Network of NL) is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to stimulate the blossoming of the province's francophone culture through the development and promotion of its francophone artists and artisans.

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Read biographies of French artists of Newfoundland and Labrador on the Directory of Artists at the following address: www.francofnl.ca/artistes

