

An Intimate Affair

Edited by Shanda Deziel

When Eleanor McCain was growing up in the farming community of Florenceville, N.B., her mother, Margaret, drove her around the province to perform at music competitions. At the performance, Margaret would accompany her daughter on the piano as she sang a favourite tune of theirs, the Scottish ballad "Eriskay Love Lilt". "My mom was my biggest influence in music," says McCain, 31. And her relationships with my family and community have deeply influenced her recently released debut CD, "Intimate".

Though she no longer lives in New Brunswick (yes, she is a member of the frozen-food clan), McCain remains strongly connected to the East. "I tried to consciously bring in my roots in this CD," she says. Not only are many of the songs chosen to reflect those roots – "Green Hills of Home", for example, describes the landscape of Florenceville – but fellow Maritimer Natalie MacMaster also plays fiddle on the CD. McCain's inspiration behind this project, however, came from another deep tie. The strength of her marriage to Greg David, says McCain, "has really gone into the depth and feeling of this album."

Fifteen years have passed since McCain and her mother performed together at a music festival. However, on the last song of the album, the sound of a piano is clearly heard as Margaret accompanies McCain, once again, for "Eriskay Love Lilt". Says McCain: "It's a mother-daughter thing."