

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNO NOMINATION FOR MARIA DUNN

Today, the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) together with CTV announced this year's Juno nominees. **Maria Dunn** is thrilled to receive a nomination in the **Traditional Roots Album of the Year** category for her sixth independent recording **Gathering** (released April 2016). This is Maria's second nomination for a Juno Award. In 2002, she received a nomination for her sophomore album *For A Song*.

The Juno Awards will be presented in Ottawa and televised by CTV on Sunday, April 2nd. To learn more about the Juno Awards, visit www.junoawards.ca.

***Maria Dunn:** I'm delighted and honoured to have **Gathering** recognized with a Juno nomination. Thank you to producer **Shannon Johnson**, engineer **Jerry Woolsey**, and a stellar group of musicians for helping me present my songs to the world. I'm also very grateful to the countless advocates for social justice, local and global, who inspired so many of these songs with their persistence, hope, courage and love.*

Maria's music has received critical acclaim over the years, both at home and abroad. Recently, she won the top **Edmonton Music Prize** for *Gathering*. Her song "Malala" (inspired by Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Malala Yousafzai) also recently won a **2016 Independent Music Award** in the Social Action Song category. On February 18 (7 pm), the Maria Dunn Trio will perform an **Official Showcase** at the **2017 Folk Alliance International Conference**, Benton's (20th Floor) in Kansas City, MO.

Gathering highlights stories of love—not songs of romantic love, but songs of family, community, humanity and the love that connects us and fires our actions to make the world a better place. Recorded at DanLyn Studios in Sherwood Park (Alberta) with producer **Shannon Johnson** (Juno award winner with **The McDades** for 2007's *Bloom*), **Gathering** continues to expand Maria's musical palate with performances from Sufi singer **Karim Gillani** and jazz saxophonist **Jeremiah McDade**.

Guest musicians: **Eric Breton** (percussion), **Karim Gillani** (guest vocal), **Shannon Johnson** (violin), **Ojas Joshi** (tabla, percussion), **Jeremiah McDade** (saxophone, bansuri, whistles, guitar), **Solon McDade** (upright bass) and **Asani** (singers **Debbie Houle**, **Sarah Pocklington** and **Terry Morrison**). Further contributions on song arrangements by **Solon McDade** and **Jeremiah McDade**.

The 11 songs on **Gathering** range from "Malala", a buoyant call to action inspired by Malala Yousafzai, to "When I Was Young", a flowing old-time ballad inspired by Alberta indigenous leader Dorothy McDonald-Hyde. "How I Live" shares the quiet courage of families supporting their children with disabilities, while "When The Grandmothers Meet"

celebrates women across the globe, with its exuberant vocals and joyful horn lines. The recording finishes with "Music In The Meadow", a bluesy bow-driven wordplay on the wonder of the Rocky Mountains.

Thank you to the following for supporting this recording project: **The Province of Alberta** through **Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, **The Edmonton Arts Council** and the **City of Edmonton**.

Upcoming Performances

Sat March 4 - Fundraising Concert for "Huron Out of the Cold" Project
Goderich, ON

<http://www.lakeshoreuc.org>

Thursday, March 9 - Maria Dunn, Si Kahn, Joe Jencks Triple Bill
Golden Link Folk Singing Society (Penfield NY)

<http://www.goldenlink.org/>

Fri Mar 10 - Maria Dunn, Si Kahn, Joe Jencks Triple Bill
Old Songs Concert Series (Voorheesville, NY)

<http://oldsongs.org>

Sat Mar 11 - Maria Dunn, Si Kahn, Joe Jencks Triple Bill
Walkabout Clearwater Concerts (White Plains, NY)

<http://www.walkaboutclearwater.org/music/coffeehouse.php>

Sun Mar 12 - Maria Dunn, Si Kahn, Joe Jencks Triple Bill
Valley Folk Club (Corning, NY)

www.valleyfolk.org

Fri Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day Celebration: Maria Dunn Concert followed by Irish Ceili
Castleton Town Hall (Castleton, ON)

<http://themillatpiper creek.ca/arts-and-heritage-centre/>

Sat Apr 22 - Maria Dunn Trio (with Shannon Johnson, Jeremiah McDade)
Northern Lights Folk Club (Edmonton, AB)

<http://www.northernlightsfc.ca>

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To set-up interviews and/or for more information, contact:

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