



presents

## **KIM ERICKSON**

### **The Raven's Wing**

*A raven flies above Thunder Bay, soaring in the Canadian sky.  
A woman's voice in the distance. A glimpse of the sea can be caught.  
The voice conjures Shakespeare's words, casting a keepsake to Pete Seeger.  
Folk, wrapped in strings splendour.*

*The Raven's Wing is a nod to my mother's North Sea Scottish roots,  
and is a taking stock and a looking forward to "the time that will come to be".  
My friend the raven could always be found here, and many fine conversations we had... - KE*

Recorded in Toronto, under the experienced guidance of producer Danny Greenspoon and double bassist Joe Phillips, who created beautiful orchestrations for them, "The Raven's Wing" recordings feature some extraordinary arrangements for small string ensemble, masterfully executed by some of Canada's best players.

"The Raven's Wing", which features guest appearances by Kim's daughters, Roisin and Lesya Roberts, marks the 25th anniversary of her debut album "The intention, the blue".

Kim Erickson's lyrics for this group of songs speak of lost loves and the lure of great waters, walks by northern shorelines, through autumn gardens and rugged old world landscapes. The music is lyrical and romantic, conjuring dark string sounds, and Kim's interpretation is deep and intense in bringing her compositions to life. Audiences who enjoy folk, jazz and classical fusions will crave this recording.

Kim is a performer, composer and music director of soundscapes for theatre and radio. She received the 2008 *CJ Arts and Heritage Award for Media and Performance Art*.

She has performed her original work across Canada and overseas. She has worked as a solo artist, in duos and ensembles, and in the acoustic trio Canto. Her work has been recorded and documented in various media (sound recordings, film, television, radio).

Route 61 Music acquired the worldwide exclusive rights to her album and is introducing her to the Italian and European public.

## Kim in her own words

### ME

I am a vocalist/musician/composer and I have achieved a varied and diverse professional music career from my home base in Thunder Bay over many years. I am a mezzo soprano soloist for orchestra. A native of Northern Ontario, the landscape and spaciousness of this part of Canada influenced me from childhood.

During my student years, I moved to Ottawa and began working professionally within the Ottawa music community and toured across Canada with Ian Tamblyn on the Joan Armatrading tour of 1978, playing *Massey Hall, Place des Arts* and the *Queen Elizabeth Theatre*.

I have been influenced by European classical music, singer-songwriter traditions, jazz, eastern European, Celtic and African traditional musics, French chanson and cabaret music, Portuguese fado and East Indian dance.

Once back in Thunder Bay I raised a family, initiated and developed several community choirs, implemented arts projects in schools and anti-racism and social justice projects in the region.

### THE ALBUM

The music in *The Raven's Wing* was assembled from the threads of journeys, conversations and places. The thread from my mother - I see how alike are the storms on the Scottish coast of the North Sea to those on Lake Superior. From North Ontario, I see ideas, melodies, the culture of us – the *stuff* of folk music - slip with force but without notice from me to my daughters, like the current of air under a raven's wing keeps it aloft.

Thunder Bay on Lake Superior is my home but like many, I left early and returned later. Much of the formation of *The Raven's Wing* took place over many years far from there.

The album took form after conversations with Lauri Conger (Parachute Club). Years before, Laurie and I had a duo going. Danny Greenspoon (My Father's Camera) and Joe Phillips (Art of Time) picked up that thread to finish the album. The songs are landscapes - some, like "10,000 Miles", travel far and wide, others, like "How Big Is Your Heart", enter the interior landscape of the human heart. Folk lyrics and water imagery conspire to bring a physical, emotional and spiritual evolution that proclaims, "I know where I came from and where I am going".

What about the raven? For me they are *shape-shifters*, challenging us to be who we really are. Like the First Nation stories of Coyote the Trickster, their challenge inevitably involves either genuine loss or humorous twists of fate that change everything in a twinkling.

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