

# NEWS from

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Natalie MacMaster, fiddler**

Natalie MacMaster, virtuoso Cape Breton fiddler is an electrifying performer whose passionate proficiency on the beloved four-string amplifies the traditional East Coast sound for contemporary times. Born June 13, 1972 to her parents Alex and Minnie MacMaster in Troy, Inverness County, Nova Scotia, Natalie MacMaster's impressive musical lineage includes a cadre of amazing fiddlers, including her uncle, fiddle prodigy Buddy MacMaster (with whom Natalie recorded the 2005 gem *Traditional Music From Cape Breton Island*); her cousin Andrea Beaton, and the late, great Canadian folk icon John Allan Cameron. However, MacMaster forged her own sound, debuting her fiddling prowess at the age of nine-and-a-half years at a Glencoe Mills, N.S. square dance. She delivered her first album, *Four On The Floor*, at the age of 16.

MacMaster's signature sound has resonated with world audiences through 10 albums, multiple gold sales figures and 27 years; numerous Juno and East Coast Music Awards; two honorary degrees (from Niagara University, NY, and Trent University) and an honorary doctorate (St. Thomas University); the Order Of Canada - and a reputation as one of Canada's most captivating performers.

She also has the respect and admiration of the crème de la crème of top-notch musicians: master violinist Mark O'Connor, whose camp MacMaster frequents as a guest instructor; legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma invited her to perform on his 2008 holiday-themed album *Songs Of Joy & Peace*; banjo prodigy Béla Fleck; fellow fiddling marvel Alison Krauss; spiritually electrifying superstar guitarist Carlos Santana; performing with The Chieftains, Paul Simon, Faith Hill, Luciano Pavarotti or in front of millions on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, the ABC 2002 New Year's Eve Special and *Good Morning America*...the list goes on.

MacMaster's performs over 100 shows per year and her audiences are left clapping, hollering and screaming for more as she and her band wow them with stylistic diversity as reflected in such top-selling CDs as the Grammy-nominated *My Roots Are Showing*, *Blueprint and Yours Truly*. The applause only increases in excitement when MacMaster incorporates step dancing into her performance.

Natalie MacMaster performs on July 13 at Durango Mountain Resort.

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**NOTE: Photo and text available in Media Center at [www.musicinthemountains.com](http://www.musicinthemountains.com)**