

PRESENTS



Natalie MacMaster

A World Stage Event

Thursday, October 16, 2008 • 8 pm
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be one intermission.

Individual support provided by Lawrence and Nancy Shepard.

Natalie MacMaster, fiddle

Mac Morin, piano

Matt MacIsaac, pipes

JD Blair, percussion

Nathaniel Smith, cello

The artists and your fellow audience members appreciate silence during the performance. Please be sure that you have switched off cellular phones, watch alarms, and pager signals. Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording are strictly forbidden. Violators are subject to removal.

Natalie MacMaster first picked up a fiddle at the age of nine and has not looked back. The niece of famed Cape Breton fiddler Buddy MacMaster, Natalie quickly became a major talent in her own right. After winning numerous East Coast Music Awards for her early traditional recordings, she began taking Celtic music to new heights with such albums as *In My Hands*, which featured elements of jazz and Latin music and guest vocals by Alison Krauss. MacMaster has recorded seven albums in Canada and the U.S. She received both a Grammy nomination and Juno Award for Best Instrumental Album for *My Roots Are Showing*, another Juno Award for Best Instrumental Album for *In My Hands*, and several Canadian Country Music Awards for Fiddler of the Year. She has shared the stage with acts such as Carlos Santana, the Chieftains, Paul Simon, Luciano Pavarotti, Alison Krauss, Mark O'Connor, and dozens of distinguished symphony orchestras.

Natalie has performed on ABC's New Year's Eve telecast at the special request of one of her greatest fans, host Peter Jennings. She created, financed, and produced her own nationally broadcast network TV special. Two of her CDs have charted on the *Billboard* World Music charts and four have been certified "gold" (50,000-plus sales) in Canada.

Recorded in Halifax, Kingston, Toronto, and Calgary, *Yours Truly* (2006) is Natalie's 10th release, co-produced by Natalie and husband Donnell Leahy. It features a mix of traditional and contemporary numbers, several originals, a rendition of "Danny Boy" sung by former Doobie Brother Michael McDonald, and "Farewell to Peter," which MacMaster wrote to pay her respects to her friend, the late Canadian newsman Peter Jennings. In 2006, Natalie taped a PBS special at the Celtic Colours Festival in Cape Breton, featuring Natalie along with award-winning banjo whiz Bela Fleck, Spanish bagpipe virtuoso Carlos Nunez, and New Zealand singing sensation Hayley Westenra.

Natalie's live performances are a testament to her incandescent musicianship and boundless energy including foot-tapping rave-ups, heart-rending ballads, and world-class step dancing. Constant international touring has proven she is equally adept at setting the house on fire with her exceptional band and hypnotizing a crowd alone in the footlights. When Natalie fronts a top-notch orchestra, two musical worlds converge and the music goes through a breathtaking metamorphosis. Natalie's fiddling fireworks on traditional and contemporary Celtic melodies, combined with the silky string sections of the symphony, generates a kind of "Traditional Fusion" delivered with ferocious energy felt by the musicians and audience alike.