

John Einarson review of the GIFT

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Winnipegger Lianne Fournier's new CD *The Gift* is aptly titled. This is a precious musical gift to be treasured and appreciated over and over again.

Boasting original compositions from the veteran jazz artist as well as a rare collaboration with dearly missed singer/songwriter Honey Hill, *The Gift* represents the work of a mature, confident artist who offers insight, introspection and experience combined with an optimism to embrace what lies ahead. Life is about the journey and Fournier brings that perspective to her writing. Her voice is joyously pitch perfect prairie pure and her delivery as freshening as a summer breeze.

Producer Don Benedictson has surrounded Fournier's exquisite songs with superbly subtle support from the finest local players including Doc Walker's Murray Pulver, Daniel Roy, Richard Moody, Jeff Presslaff, and Gilles Fournier. From the cool jazz of "Downtown" with its scat vocals, Crosby, Still & Nash stylings of "Eat Sing Love", the Steely Dan funk of "By The Light Of The Fire", inspirational "Love Will Never Let You Down" and "The Right Way", to the Carole King-infused title song, *The Gift* is like a fine wine to be savoured and appreciated for its fullness and maturity.

JOHN EINARSON: Born and raised in Winnipeg, music historian John Einarson is an acclaimed musicologist, broadcaster, educator, and author of 14 music biographies published worldwide including Neil Young, Randy Bachman, John Kay of Steppenwolf, Ian & Sylvia, The Guess Who, The Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, Arthur Lee & Love and Buffalo Springfield.