

## Maria McKee – Bio

Maria Louise McKee was born on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1964 in Los Angeles, California and went on to attend Beverly Hills High School. Maria's half-brother, the late Bryan MacLean [d. 1998], was a member of the **"Love"/"Da Capo"/"Forever Changes"** line-up of the legendary L.A. band Love, and during her mid-teen years the pair performed as a duo and for a short time with a band. In 1982 McKee helped form the band Lone Justice with Ryan Hedgcock [guitar, vocals] – whom she met at a rockabilly festival - and Marvin Etzioni [bass, vocals] and they were subsequently signed by Geffen Records. Their debut album, produced by Jimmy Iovine, featured drummer Don Heffington [Emmylou Harris] and when the band toured in support of their debut album they were augmented by Tony Gilkyson [guitar, vocals], Eliza's brother. Lone Justice cut two albums for Geffen although by the time their Jimmy Iovine and Steven Van Zandt co-produced sophomore album **"Shelter"** appeared, McKee was supported by Bruce Brody [keyboard], Shane Fontayne [guitar], Rudy Richman [drums] and Greg Sutton [bass, vocals]. Maria's first soundtrack appearance found her performing "Never Be You" on **"Streets Of Fire"** [1984]. In 1985, in the role of songwriter, McKee scored a # 1 U.K. single when Feargal Sharkey, former lead singer of Irish band The Undertones, covered her "A Good Heart."

When Lone Justice split up, McKee remained with Geffen and in 1989 she released a self-titled collection, followed in the ensuing seven years by two more albums for the label. Despite constant touring of the States and Europe her recordings failed to score significant chart success and sales. In 1991 Maria wrote and performed "Show Me Heaven" the theme song to **"Days of Thunder,"** a car-racing movie that starred Tom Cruise, Robert Duvall and Nicole Kidman, and it reached # 1 on the U.K. Pop Chart and remained there for four weeks [it peaked at # 24 U.S. Adult Contemporary]. Three years later McKee performed "If Love Is A Red Dress [Hang Me In Rags]" on the soundtrack album to the Quentin Tarantino directed movie **"Pulp Fiction."** During the 1990's McKee lived for a time in Dublin and also New York's East Village.

The compilation **"Sweet Relief: Benefit For Victoria Williams"** [1993] featured Maria's rendition of "Opelousas [Sweet Relief]" and the same year she was a backing vocalist on the track "Sullivan Street" which appeared on **"August And Everything After"** Counting Crows' debut album for Geffen. McKee's "Am I The Only One [Who's Ever Felt This Way]" was covered by The Dixie Chicks on their mega selling **"Wide Open Spaces"** [1998]. Having released no new material for a handful of years, in 2001 McKee performed the traditional song "Wayfarin' Stranger" on the soundtrack to the movie **"Songcatcher,"** and the following year contributed two cuts - "Ma Blonde Est Partie" & "Tout Un Beau Soir En Me Promenant" - to the compilation **"Evangeline Made - A Tribute To Cajun Music."**

Co-produced with husband Jim Akin, **"High Dive"** [2003], Maria's first solo outing in seven year was self-released on Viewfinder Records, and was followed by the self-explanatory **"Live In Hamburg."** Signing with U.K. based Cooking Vinyl Records and U.S. based Eleven Thirty Records, those labels released **"Peddlin' Dreams,"** a collection of unreleased material from previous recording projects. Once again a self-explanatory title **"Live – Acoustic Tour 2006"** was followed by **"Late December"** and the latter collection included McKee's rendition of "A Good Heart." Released in early 2008 **"Live At The BBC"** featured recordings made during Maria's 1993 solo tours of the U.K.

### Discography :

Solo : **"Maria McKee"** [1989] ; **"You Gotta Sin To Get Saved"** [1993] ; **"Life Is Sweet"** [1996] ; **"High Dive"** [2003] ; **"Live In Hamburg"** [2004] ; **"Peddlin' Dreams"** [2005] ; **"Live – Acoustic Tour 2006"** [2006] ; **"Late December"** [2007] ; **"Live At The BBC"** [2008] :

with Lone Justice : **"Lone Justice"** [1985] ; **"Shelter"** [1986] ; **"BBC Radio 1 Live In Concert"** [1993] ; **"This World Is Not My Home"** compilation [1998] :

with Bryan MacLean : **"No One Was Kinder"** [2005] :

### Arthur Wood

Kerrville Kronikles 02/08 & 03/08.

[590 words]