

Lynn Miles - Bio

Lynn was born in Sweetsburg, Quebec during September 1958. When I first interviewed her in 1996, Lynn vividly recalled watching, at the age of eight, an **"Ed Sullivan Show."** *"I saw a woman with beautiful blonde hair, playing a guitar. We had given my father a guitar for Christmas and I ended up playing it. In public school, I studied violin and flute. When I was sixteen, I started taking private piano lessons which I financed with babysitting money."* Lynn had begun writing songs at the age of ten and first performed in public, at her High School, when she was sixteen. *"I remember the incredible applause. Being a very shy person, the applause was a real drug for me. It made me want to keep on performing. When I was about twenty, I wanted to have a stronger voice, so I studied with an opera singer for two years."*

In public, Lynn initially performed in local bars and clubs with guitarist, Mark Thibeault. By the late seventies, based in Ottawa, she teamed up with Terry Tufts. *"We shared an interest in Gram Parsons, The Eagles and Jackson Browne and only played covers."* Lynn began studying the theory and history of classical music at Carlton University in Ottawa, but never completed the course. Tiring of playing covers, by the mid-eighties Miles began exposing her, by then, extensive catalogue of songs to public scrutiny. Lynn's first recording, a self-titled cassette that she helped co-produce appeared in 1987, featured nine of her compositions. Concurrently, Miles worked at The Ottawa Folklore Centre, as a voice teacher. *"Alanis Morissette was one of my pupils. She was thirteen and about to make her first album."*

"Chalk This One Up To The Moon," Lynn's sophomore album [and debut CD] was issued by Snowy River Records in 1991. In support of her second album, Lynn toured the New England area of the States, particularly around Boston, and made a couple of trips to Alaska. She also began performing at Canada's numerous open-air, summer music festivals. At the June 1992 **Mariposa Folk Festival** in Ontario, Lynn ran into Guy Clark. *"He introduced me to his producer, Miles Wilkinson. Miles asked for a tape. Some time later Bo Goldsen from Criterion Music phoned me and offered to be my publisher."* Lynn performed at the 1994 **Expo Exhibition** in Seville, Spain and also undertook dates in Portugal, France and Germany. She spent six weeks of the winter of 1994 in Austin, Texas, and during the following March showcased her songs at Austin's **South by Southwest Music Festival**.

Lynn's third album, **"Slightly Haunted,"** had been cut at Lakeside Studio in Clayton, Ontario during October 1994. Jeffrey Lesser, known for his work with Lou Reed and Loudon Wainwright, was the producer. *"Ken Irwin of Rounder Records offered us a deal."* Philo released the album in early 1996. Containing eleven self-composed, *flawless gems set in a bed of platinum*, Ian LeFeuvre's lead guitar work perfectly complemented Miles' voice. Lynn relocated to Los Angeles in 1997 and, in 1998, Philo released **"Night in a Strange Town."** It was co-produced by John Cody and Larry Klein (Joni Mitchell, Shawn Colvin). Lynn's most recent – and truly stunning - CD, **"Unravel"** was released in Europe during September 2001. It reunites her with long time musical collaborator, Ian Lefeuvre, who produced the collection. By the summer of the following year, the album was released in Canada on True North and in America by the Okra-Tone label, and **"Unravel"** went on to pick up the Canadian Juno award for the best Roots & Traditional Album in early 2003.

Lynn Miles, the Canadian songbird, *wields a double-edged blade*. There's the voice - which possesses a plaintive and pleasing ache that would probably be hard to cure [but who would want to]; then there are her awesome, memorably melodic, hook laded songs. Here's to the lady with that *"crystal clear Northern perspective."* In the Fall of 2003, Miles released a concert DVD in Europe, filmed at The Chapel in Tilburg, Holland during the summer of 2002, and titled **"Live At The Chapel."**

Miles' **"Love Sweet Love"** was released in Canada by True North in mid April 2005. The album was subsequently released in the States by Red House Records, and at the inaugural 2005 Canadian Folk Awards, Lynn scored the Best English Songwriter and Best Contemporary Singer titles. During February/March 2008, based in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Lynn took part in a series of workshops as part of the Yukon Women In Music Recording Project. While there Miles produced a twelve song compilation album featuring local musicians that is due for late 2008 release. In the late summer of 2008 Lynn self-released **"Black Flowers Vol. 1"** a 'back to basics' collection in which Miles' voice is supported by her guitar or piano. Revisiting her back catalogue the ten song collection closed with the previously unrecorded, in concert favourite "When My Ship Comes In." She performed the latter song on the **"Live At The Chapel"** DVD. Delving into her six-hundred composition song catalogue, Miles plans to record and release a series of such recordings on a six-monthly basis.

Discography : “**Lynn Miles**” on cassette only [1987] ; "**Chalk This One Up To The Moon,**" [1991] ; "**Slightly Haunted**" [1996] ; "**Night in a Strange Town**" [1998] ; "**Unravel**" [2001] ; “**Love Sweet Love**” [2005] ; “**Black Flowers Vol. 1**” [2008] :
DVD – “**Live At The Chapel**” [2003] :

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