



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**STORYSAVE TO CELEBRATE LAUNCH OF 18TH CD:
The Work of Beloved Master Storyteller, Marylyn Peringer**

CONTACT:

Marion Gruner, StorySave Program Manager

519.400.7821

storysave@storytellers-conteurs.ca

Toronto, Ontario (September 24, 2017) - StorySave, a program of Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada (SC-CC), is celebrating the Toronto launch of its 18th CD, ***Pieces of My Heart, French-Canadian and Maltese Stories*** by renown storyteller Marylyn Peringer.

The CD's official Ontario launch is Sunday September 24th, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Centre for Social Innovation (Annex location) at 720 Bathurst St., Toronto. It is open to the public.

Marylyn Peringer's work has always been a bridge to other cultures. Her unique bilingual style of telling stories from French Canada has captivated audiences across the country for decades. And now, exploring her Maltese heritage, Marylyn has gathered and translated classic stories from Malta, uncovering the dozens of cultural influences of the country. It is rare to find traditional Maltese tales told in English, making this collection extra special.

Now at 80 years old, Marylyn's StorySave CD stands as a testament to her artistry as a teller. When she discovered the folk tales and legends of French Canada, she began sharing them with others, mostly with the young. She has visited over a thousand schools across Canada, telling tales in French and English about the fascinating inhabitants of the French-Canadian spirit world. *"Discovering the folklore of French Canada, so little known to anglophones like me, was like coming across a hidden treasure. I learned the stories quickly, one after another, so eager was I to tell them. The Maltese stories took more time. They're the result of many trips to Malta - partly for research, partly for visits with my relatives - who have told me that my grandmother, Georgina Tabone, was an excellent storyteller!"*

Pieces of My Heart is a beautiful celebration of two cultures that have been at the core of Marylyn's life in story, and StorySave is very proud to have been a part of this project.

The StorySave Program was established by SC-CC as a means of enhancing storytelling's living contribution to Canada's oral and literary heritage through the recording of voices of elders from the Canadian storytelling community for reproduction on and distribution through multivolume CD sets, and digital downloads. Tellers selected for inclusion are those who tell out of very particular repertoires, and have something unique to offer.

For more information on this and other StorySave projects please go to the SC-CC website and visit the StorySave pages: <http://www.storytellers-conteurs.ca/en/featured-storytellers.html>



BACKGROUND

The purpose of Storytellers of Canada / Conteurs du Canada (SC-CC) is to function as the national representative for those involved in maintaining and practicing the oral tradition of storytelling across the country. SC-CC is dedicated to furthering the art of storytelling and bringing the diverse peoples of Canada together through story. SC-CC seeks to promote, support, and contribute to the growth of storytellers' work, and to ensure the continuing development of the art of storytelling as an integral part of Canadian culture. Most of SC-CC's work is carried on by highly dedicated and hardworking volunteers from all across Canada, working on a very limited budget and supported by a small paid staff.

The StorySave Program was established as a means of enhancing storytelling's living contribution to Canada's oral and literary heritage, through the recording of voices of elders from the Canadian storytelling community for reproduction on and distribution through multi-volume CD sets, and the audio website. Emphasis is on the creation of finished products of a highly professional standard. Tellers selected for inclusion are those who tell out of very particular repertoires, and have something unique to offer. StorySave's long-term objective is to ensure a permanent and vital production list which is fully representative of the art of Canadian storytelling at its best.

Each year nominations are welcome from all storytellers who have made a significant contribution to the storytelling world. Only those nominees who have developed a marked personal style to the craft of storytelling, including but not limited to their vision, technique, interests, history, and specific repertoire will be considered. To date, StorySave has recorded the voices of fourteen tellers (reference StorySave's "Teller" Biographies – attached). Donations help StorySave to record tellers and keep their voices vibrant and heard.

STORYSAVE TELLER BIOGRAPHIES

Kate Stevens (2002) "At the age of 75, as I look back on half a century of involvement with Chinese literature, I am bemused. There was little hint in my early life that I would turn into a Chinese scholar. New England born and bred, I hardly seemed fated to wander. In fact, with a BA in physics and a job at a Long Island laboratory, I seemed set for a scientific career. But in my suitcase was a book from an English lit. course – Ezra Pound's translation of Confucian classics, with facing Chinese text. In my spare time...I began to work my way back and forth: Chinese to English to Chinese. It was wisdom and fun; physics was abandoned."

Joan Bodger (2003) Joan lived fiercely; she lived with wit, humour, candor and commitment. She continued to work and tell out of her fundamental concern with the interplay between the old, old stories and ritual, the old, old stories and landscape, the old, old stories and ordinary life. In 1989, she started to lead an annual tour to King Arthur's Britain. This was a tour of exploration and discovery. It was developed so that, through the visiting of ancient sites, others might find that fundamental concern within themselves.



STORYSAVE TELLER BIOGRAPHIES (cont'd)

Louis Bird (2005) Omushkigo Elder, Pennishish, was born in a wilderness camp in Ontario's Far North. He grew up in a World of traditional hunting and fishing, listening to the stories of his Elders. Concerned for the heritage owed to future generations, Pennishish began to record the voices of those who had lived the old ways. The work has continued to grow and now forms the basis of the Omushkigo Oral History Project. Pennishish describes the stories he tells as "textbooks," encompassing a complete system of ethics, a fullness of spiritual belief: everything required for successful living in a harsh land.

Carol McGirr (2006) Founder of the long-lived Fireside Epic series, Carol's impact on Canadian storytelling has been profound. Through her courage in telling from the oldest, longest stories she has brought courage to others. Productions of The Iliad, The Odyssey and the Kalevala in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver have all had Carol's inspiration at their hearts. For her work with saga, she has been given the honorary name Carol Karlsdottir by the Icelandic-Canadian community. She believes "storytellers come and go. It is the story that lives happily ever after." From this comes her commitment to "Staying out of the story's way." Her repertoire of other saga material, of myths, folktales and literary stories from around the world is legendary. She has appeared at storytelling events across the land.

René Fumoleau (2007) Born in France in 1926, Rene Fumoleau came to Denendeh (Northwest Territories) as a young priest in 1953. Travel to Rádeli Kóé (Fort Good Hope) involved a long boat journey down Dehcho (the Mackenzie River) into a new world. Through all of the years, his attachment to the Dene peoples deepened. He celebrated the strength of their ancestral wisdom and committed himself to their desire for change. René published *As Long as This Land Shall Last* as a contribution to the struggle over land claims; directed two films, *I Was Born Here* and *Dene Nation*; he also took thousands of photos, now housed in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. René began creating stories of his experiences in 1988, writing them first in two books of poetry, *Here I Sit* and *The Secret*, and then telling them at events and festivals across the land.

Jim St. Clair (2008) The folks in his part of Cape Breton know Jim as a teacher, mentor, storyteller, and most of all, a friend. His knowledge and wisdom are freely given to anyone who asks. Researchers come to his door looking for information on their ancestors, and find not only the facts, but the story behind the facts. He has traveled Cape Breton many times over as a volunteer for numerous organizations, encouraging and inspiring the people involved. His stories, told in a deep and resonant voice, weave together local anecdotes and oral narratives with historical details of time and place, bringing the past alive for all listeners.

Marie Anne McLean (2009) Marie Anne McLean has been storytelling with TALES - The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling since 1986. She has collected stories from Veterans of the D-Day Landing in World War II and of the depression experiences of her grandparents in Scotland and on the Canadian Prairies. She tells original stories of people in towns such as Thumbprint and Weed Creek in rural Saskatchewan. She loves to tell of these places that have helped to form our individual and national characters. She also has a special fondness for Celtic stories.



STORYSAVE TELLER BIOGRAPHIES (cont'd)

Alice Kane (2010) Alice Kane was born in Ireland in 1908. Moving with her parents to Canada in 1921, she was educated in New Brunswick and at McGill University in Montreal before beginning a career with the Toronto Public Library, where she had a major interest in fairy tales. After her retirement in 1973, she taught Children's Literature at the University of New Brunswick, and then began a second career as a professional storyteller in association with the Storytellers School of Toronto. She has been a featured performer at many storytelling events, including the American Storytelling Festival at Jonesborough, Tennessee. Her rich oral heritage is remembered in *Songs of an Ulster Childhood*, edited by Edith Fowke (1983). *The Dreamer Awakes*, a collection of her best-loved stories, was published by Broadview Press in 1995.

Lorne Brown (2011) Drawing on his legendary vast repertoire, Lorne Brown sings and tells us old ballads, family stories, ancient legends and well loved folktales. In both English and French, he makes us laugh and cry, challenges us to think, surprises us with little known facts – did you know that *When You and I Were Young, Maggie?* Is a Canadian song from Hamilton? Lorne takes us fishing on a famous logging river, entertains us with recitations, and has us singing along with his banjo. He intersperses haunting tunes on his alto recorder with lullabies and literary tales, offering a collection of all that he holds dear: family, nature, the moon, friends, the almost spiritual experience of group singing, a respect for the past, and a love of Canada.

Mike Burns (2012) With the telling of *Mac an Iascaire* – An old South Kerry hero-tale, Irish born Mike Burns, embodies such wisdoms. As Mike puts it: "When my friend, Tony Montague, first heard me tell *Mac an Iascaire* twenty years ago, he said it threw him back to the Paleolithic and the cave paintings of France. Lord knows how old it is. May it live twice as long into the future. I have always especially loved shape-shifting and transformation stories. They speak to me of how magical and mutable this world is, full of strange possibilities. This is my favourite one, in its original language, Munster Irish, in the English of South Kerry, and in my broken French."

M. Jennie Frost (2013) "My family (both sides) came to Edmonton in 1906. I discovered archaeology at age 11, studied Classics at university, and taught Latin in school, university, and adult extension classes for 20 years. When I began storytelling in 1996, I leapt at the chance to interest a wider audience in the stories of ancient Greece and Rome. Storytelling also allows me to share the folk and fairy tales I've loved since I first started reading, as well as poetry and stories from literature. I've published prize-winning short stories and poetry, and one book *The Courtship of Hippodameia* (Mellen, N.Y., 2005). I've been President of both TALEs Edmonton and Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada.

Celia Lottridge (2014) Celia Lottridge grew up with stories; hearing them, reading them and then telling them herself. She began telling stories as a children's librarian and teacher librarian but it was when she settled in Toronto in the late 1970s that she came to know other storytellers and storytelling became central in her life. Celia is also a teacher of storytelling and the author of many books which relate to storytelling, But it is telling stories that Celia loves most. "When I tell a story, it lives for me and I hope it will live for a listener and, perhaps be passed on by a new voice." In this recording, you will find three groups of stories from places close to Celia's heart.



STORYSAVE TELLER BIOGRAPHIES (cont'd)

Jan Andrews (2014) In 2012-2013, StorySave designated Jan's CD as a special project. Deeply influenced by Homer's tales, Jan has been telling, writing, and producing storytelling projects from his work for years. *Two Women of The Odyssey - Nausicaa and Penelope*, is Jan's beautiful telling of the stories of two of Homer's most iconic characters. The originator of the StorySave project, Jan Andrews is a passionate and celebrated storyteller and StorySave and SC-CC is very proud to launch this first instalment of Jan's 3 CD collection.

Flora Zaharia (2015) Flora Zaharia (Sikotan) is a Kainai (Blood) elder from Alberta, now living in Winnipeg. In *Atsinikssini: Legends of my Kainai People*, her 2 CD recording for StorySave, Flora tells traditional legends as well as personal stories, and has worked for many years recording the stories of the people on her Kainai reserve. Through this work and her own performances, she has made invaluable contributions to the storytelling world.

Stewart Cameron (2016) Stewart Cameron was a beloved balladeer and storyteller with an undeniable passion for ancient stories, whether told or sung. He was able to bring them alive for all who were lucky enough to see and hear him perform. He performed regularly at folk and storytelling festivals in Ontario in the 1970s and 1980s. Sadly, he died young without ever having made a professional recording. His daughter, Moira Cameron collected and refurbished a collection of Stewart's many recordings to create two StorySave album's of his work: *Tales of Love, Laughter and Learning*, and its companion, *Ballads of Love, Laughter and Learning*. StorySave is honoured to be a part of preserving the magic of Stewart's unforgettable talent.

Jan Andrews (2016) The second and final instalment of Jan's special recording project for StorySave, *Written in the Body* is a unique and deeply personal story from master teller Jan Andrews. In it, Jan combines a literary tale about a young man compelled to dress as a woman to mark his coming of age, with the personal story of her journeys around sexuality, and of what might have been.

Marylyn Peringer (2017) In Marylyn's 40 year storytelling career she has told to hundreds of audiences across the country. A gifted teller, Marylyn is known for her unique bilingual style, and her mesmerizing voice. Her album for StorySave, *Pieces of My Heart* celebrates her French-Canadian stories, as well as her new work: the extraordinary folktales of her Maltese heritage.

Louise Profeit-Leblanc (2018) Quebec's Louise Profeit-Leblanc is an accomplished artist from the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation in northeastern Yukon. She has come from a long line of storytellers and is now the keeper of many of these stories of the ancient and not so distant past. We are delighted to have Louise as the first storyteller to be a part of StorySave's new format, which will include a podcast documentary on Louise's work, along with the traditional album recording.

Next Teller (2019) The StorySave Program is accepting nominations for the Teller for 2019, now until October 31st, 2017. To learn more about nominations, visit <http://www.storytellers-conteurs.ca/en/about-StorySave.html>