

# mary jane lamond

*"A sharing of gold is but brief, but a sharing of song lasts long." - Gaelic Proverb*

Mary Jane Lamond is a sharer of songs, stories and spirit. This sharing has garnered Mary Jane numerous Juno and East Coast Music Award nominations, critical acclaim and a worldwide audience. Mary Jane's latest recording "Storas" (*Gaelic meaning "a treasure"*), is a beautiful interpretation of some of the Scottish Gaelic songs that have become part of Nova Scotia's Gaelic tradition. Her use of modern instrumentation and arrangements provides a respectful and beautiful framework for these Gaelic treasures but it is Mary Jane's spell binding vocal performance and heartfelt delivery that makes these selections truly come alive for the listener.

On the North Shore of Cape Breton Island, the rich heritage of the region's Scottish settlers was kept alive through song. It was in Nova Scotia, visiting her grandparents throughout her youth, that Mary Jane Lamond fell in love with Scottish Gaelic traditions and song. While enrolled in Saint Francis Xavier University's Celtic Studies programme, Lamond released her first album, *Bho Thir Nan Craobh*, a collection of traditional material that introduced her unique singing voice and a then unknown fiddler named Ashley MacIsaac. The two talented Maritimers then collaborated on the award-winning radio smash "Sleepy Maggie".

Mary Jane Lamond took time-honoured Gaelic songs to the next level on *Suas e!*, which combined classic texts with contemporary pop sounds. The *Globe & Mail* praised it for its "refreshing balance between modern and ancient," and the album earned several Juno and East Coast Music Award nominations as well as a MuchMusic Global Groove Award for the video "Bog a'Lochain."

The success of *Suas e!* contributed to an explosion of interest in Celtic culture and Lamond took the songs on the road with a live band. Her experiences on the stage directly influenced the sound of *Làn Dùil*.

"I had the same philosophy, which is to pick a variety of songs in the tradition and work on different ways to arrange them," Lamond explains.

On *Làn Dùil* Lamond's spell-binding renditions of treasured Gaelic songs are fused with original arrangements using a variety of instruments, from the familiar fiddle and bagpipes to Indian tabla. Ultimately, it's a new style of world music that is unique to Mary Jane Lamond.

Yet as the singer herself will tell you, it's the stories that matter. While *Làn Dùil* soothes and stirs, it also chronicles Cape Breton's living Scottish Gaelic culture. The sounds of friends, family and local legends are heard throughout the album.

Despite the important role her music plays in preserving Scottish Gaelic songs that would otherwise rarely be heard outside Cape Breton, Mary Jane Lamond says *Làn Dùil*'s primary purpose is to

entertain. "This is a huge oral literary tradition that is being lost at an alarming rate," she says, "and I am involved with community things that help conserve it for younger people. But I'm also an interpreter, a singer and musician and in my music the challenge is to create something new and exciting that doesn't destroy the heart of it."

Òrain Ghàidhlig (Gaelic Songs of Cape Breton), focuses on the songs and poetry which are the cornerstone of this tradition. This recording remains true to the simple sharing of music that is the foundation of Gaelic culture – from the engaging milling songs performed by a group of Cape Breton's finest traditional Gaelic singers to the lively old style fiddling of Joe Peter MacLean, a musician never before captured on recording. Recorded at the beautiful North River Church in Cape Breton, this enhanced cd also features visuals taken during the recording sessions.

Mary Jane Lamond makes timeless music for a modern age. Mary Jane Lamond continues to make a unique contribution to both world and pop music.

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# awards & nominations

- 2002** ECMA Roots/Traditional Solo Artist Of The Year Award
- 2001** ECMA Nomination – Female Artist (Òrain Ghàidhlig)
- 2000** Juno Nomination – Roots and Traditional Album: Solo (Làn Dùil)  
ECMA Nomination – Album (Làn Dùil)  
ECMA Nomination – Roots/Traditional Solo Artist (Làn Dùil)  
ECMA Nomination – Female Artist (Làn Dùil)  
ECMA Nomination – Entertainer of the Year  
MIANS Nomination – Female Artist
- 1998** Juno Nomination – Roots and Traditional Album: Solo (Suas e!)  
ECMA Nomination - Female Artist (Suas e!)  
ECMA Nomination - Album (Suas e!)  
ECMA Nomination - Video for Bog a' Lochain (Suas e!)
- 1997** Much Music Award – Global Groove - Bog a' Lochain (Suas e!)  
ECMA Award – Single for Sleepy Maggie  
(hi how are you today?, Ashley MacIsaac)
- 1996** ECMA Nomination - Female Artist (Bho Thir Nan Craobh)  
ECMA Nomination - Roots/Traditional Artist (Bho Thir Nan Craobh)

## **other activities of note**

- 2003**                      **DRUM**  
Composer/Music Consultant/Co-Producer
- 2001-2003**                **GALAXIE Celtic Channel**  
Music Consultant/Programmer
- 2001**                      **Nova Scotia Kitchen Party**  
(Syndicated Radio/Internet Program)  
Host
- 2001**                      **“Sigh and a Wish”**  
(NFB documentary on Dr. Helen Creighton)  
Composer/Producer Soundtrack
- 2001**                      **Celtic Colours International Festival**  
(Gaelic Consultant)
- Ongoing**                **Gaelic Language Workshop & Classes**

# discography

**2005**

**Storas**

turtlemusik

Produced by Philip Strong

**2001**

**Òrain Ghàidhlig**

*Gaelic Songs of Cape Breton*

turtlemusik

Produced by Mary Jane Lamond

**1999**

**Làn Dùil**

turtlemusik

Produced by Philip Strong

**1997**

**Suas e!**

turtlemusik

Produced by Philip Strong & Laurel \  
MacDonald

**1995**

**Bho Thir Nan Craobh**

*From the Land of the Trees*

B&R Heritage

Produced by Al Bennett

NO LONGER AVAILABLE

# reviews

## Òrain Ghàidhlig

### Canada:

“ . . . a devoted and pure love letter to the island’s storied settlers’ heritage”.

*Chronicle Herald*

“Stirring and refreshingly raw, this disc is clearly a labour of love . . . the tradition of the Cape Breton Gaels is in safe, compassionate hands . . . strips songs to their tender, moving, mournful, joyful.

*Penguin Eggs*

### US:

“ . . . a completely unmediated homage to the [Cape Breton] island’s traditional music . . . this CD peels bacfk the layers of her previous work and introduces her source material.”

*Maine Times*

## Làn Dùil

### Canada:

"...another masterpiece of Gaelic songs and traditional stylings like reels mixed with various modern signatures. With guests like Cape Bretoners Gordie Sampson and Ashley MacIsaac, Lamond again shows she’s one of the country’s premier vocalists."

*Chapters Online*

"...exotic in its exploratory melding of Inverness County tales, modern rhythms and live playing. Lamond sings with zeal, keeping the Gaelic language vibrant and current."

*Toronto Star*

"Lamond has become one of the top Celtic traditional acts in Canada..."

*The Guardian*

"With the release of her third CD Lamond continues her artful marrying of tradition and experimentation."

*The Monitor*

"...there's something about Mary Jane...it must be her voice."

*New Brunswick Reader*

"Lamond's new offering enchants..."

*Bridgetown Monitor*

## **United States:**

"There's no question she's one of the finest Gaelic singers around today..."

*Dirty Linen*

"Lamond does a lovely job of singing the Gaelic, clearly expressing the joy and sorrow of these ancient songs."

*Eugene Weekly*

"...Lamond is a splendid interpreter of challenging material."

*Chicago Tribune*

## **Suas e!**

### **Canada:**

". . . impressive talent . . . hypnotic rock arrangements . . . soaring voice . . . rhythmically stirring whole . . ."

*Macleans*

". . . astonishing and uniquely moving collection . . . watch for Lamond to clean up at next year's nominations for Juno and East Coast Music Awards."

*Toronto Sun*

"Her hypnotic, word-tumbling style is a wicked delight, even if you don't understand a word."

*Saturday Night*

". . . a refreshing balance between modern and ancient. . ."

*The Globe & Mail*

"Celtic and contemporary make magical mix."

*The Georgia Strait*

"Suas e! is a delightful listen . . . what the heck is in that Cape Breton water, anyway?"

*NOW Magazine*

"I know in my heart that no matter what I say about Mary Jane's stunning second record, Suas e! I won't be able to do proper justice to her talent, the creative production, or the feelings her music engenders."

*Chronicle Herald*

"Aside from her wonderful voice and different collection of songs, Lamond will envelope you in an unknown world of spoken word that is at the same time familiar and welcoming."

*Pulse Niagara*

### **United States:**

"Mary Jane Lamond has one of those angelic voices that makes her sound like a star in the making."

*Los Angeles Times*

"The sultry Mary Jane Lamond . . ."

*Boston Globe*

"the powerful vocal talent of Mary Jane Lamond"

*Frontiers Newsmagazine*

". . . soothing vocals of Mary Jane Lamond emits musical magic."

*Virtually Alternative*

". . . eerie Gaelic crooning. . ."

*Heatstroke*

"...she is one of the best women performers singing today."

*Irish Edition*

"The lure here is almost solely Lamond's voice, an instrument of crystalline perfection that infuses fresh life into this old, old music."

*Mountain Express*

"...every song is full of the harmony and emotion that makes them understandable even to people who don't speak Gaelic."

*Friday Morning*

"...her blend of traditional Celtic with pop and funk is delicious and stirring."

*Napra Review*

"...luring the listener, blissfully, unconscious, to the rocks."

*SoundStone.com*

"...incendiary sets startlingly melded her teenage punk roots with her ancestral Cape Breton ones."

*What In The World*

"...the band's edgy, insistent sound and Lamond's soulful singing more than filled the intimate Great American Music Hall."

*The Gael*

"Quite simply she is extraordinary..."

*Times Record*

"...captivating Gaelic singer with a sinewy pop and world-beat groove..."

*Boston Globe*

"She sings with a clarity and honesty which demonstrate an innate understanding of this timeless material."

*The Herald*

"...Lamond's voice, an instrument of crystalline perfection that infuses fresh life into this old, old music...a latter-day Gaelic diva."

*Mountain Express*

"Lamond is among the leaders of this movement."

*Salt Lake Tribune*

"The Record of the Month Award has to go to Mary Jane Lamond...a star is born."

*Seattle Rocket*

## **United Kingdom:**

" . . . this is a remarkable beast . . . pushing into new waters so cleverly and beautifully . . ."

*FolkRoots*

". . . moving and always statuesque. . ."

*The Guardian Review*

". . .casts a spell over those who hear her voice . . ."

*Irish Post*

". . . excellent track selection, beautifully accompanied."

*TOP*

"An album of unexpected warmth and variety...an album of the rarest kind, sounding both authentically old and excitingly modern."

*Mojo*

"This CD marks an important new high in the burgeoning 'Celtic' musical and cultural revival...it's a collection that will come as a surprise and a delight to lovers of Gaelic song in Ireland and Britain."

*Irish Music*

## **Bho Thir Nan Craobh**

"Strong, complex, beautiful young voice...diction gorgeous, Gaelic exquisite to the ear."

*Sing Out*

"Mary Jane stunned traditional music enthusiasts with her subtle, expert readings of Gaelic folk songs on her debut album."

*United Press Intl*

"Mary Jane has great clarity and an impressive command of Gaelic."

*BBC*

"... at once splendid and haunting..."

*The Scots Magazine*

"Clear-voiced and passionate, Mary Jane conveys a solid sense of the Gaelic culture."

*The Cape Bretoner*

"Every once in a while a voice just grabs you. Mary Jane Lamond has one of those voices, rich, low, and clear."

*Yorkton This Week*

## Performance

"One doesn't attend one of her performances and walk away unaffected; she's riveting."  
*The Brunswickan*

"Seeing Mary Jane Lamond and her crack band is a treasure, a life-time memory, an 'I Was There' moment."

*The Coast*

"Celtic roots and a strong, pure voice spell divadom for Mary Jane Lamond."  
*Toronto Life Fashion*

"Celtic queen. If you want the Gaelic goods, forget about Ashley and The Rankins, Mary Jane Lamond's who you're looking for."

*Daily News*

". . . alternately soothing and commanding performances . . ."

*NOW Magazine*

"She set a formidable standard."

*Celtic Connections*

"Hypnotic, haunting and so completely different."

*Niagara Fall Review*

"She has remarkable range and power, and a wide array of emotions she easily projects in a song."  
*The Star*

"Canada goes gaga for Gaelic girl...the riveting Mary Jane Lamond."

*The Edmonton Sun*

"Lamond is indeed a treasure."

*Ottawa Citizen*

"The glorious Gaelic vocals of Mary Jane Lamond."

*What! A magazine*

"Outstanding vocalist."

*Winnipeg Free Press*

". . . immaculate vocals that just send the listener into bliss . . her caressing voices takes command. She illustrates why the human voice is considered a noteworthy instrument."

*San Jose Mercury News*

". . . haunting vocals . . ."

*Press-Telegram (CA)*

". . . ethereal female vocal . . ."

*Advocate (CA)*

"Vocalist Mary Jane Lamond can handle any material . . ."

*Fantastic Voyage*

"Lamond can certainly - and does - reduce the stately Princess of Wales Theatre to a community hall in the best sense of the word."

*The Toronto Sun (Needfire)*

"A rich and compelling, capable voice."

*Times Globe*

"...exceptional talent..."

*Ottawa Sun*

"Effortlessly picking precise notes from the air, Lamond enchants listeners."

*Pulse Niagara*

"... impressive talent . . . hypnotic rock arrangements . . .soaring voice . . . rhythmically stirring whole . . ."

*Maclean's*

"Seeing Mary Jane and her crack band is a treasure, a life-time memory, an 'I Was There' moment."

*The Coast*

"I know in my heart that no matter what I say about Mary Jane's stunning second record, Suas e! I won't be able to do proper justice to her talent, the creative production, or the feelings her music engenders."

*The Chronicle Herald*

"... astonishing and uniquely moving collection . . ."

*Toronto Sun*

"Hypnotic, haunting and so completely different."

*Niagara Fall Review*

"Celtic roots and a strong, pure voice spell divadom for Mary Jane Lamond."

*Toronto Life Fashion*

"Watch for Lamond to clean up at next year's nominations for Juno and East Coast Music Awards."

*Toronto Sun*

“Impressively, her voice is able to create a full landscape for songs without instrumentation.”

*FFWD*

“Celtic queen. If you want the Gaelic goods, forget about Ashley and The Rankins, Mary Jane Lamond’s who you’re looking for.”

*Daily News*

“ . . . find a refreshing balance between modern and ancient . . . ”

*The Globe & Mail*

“Effortlessly picking precise notes from the air, Lamond enchants listeners.”

*Niagara Weekly*

“Her hypnotic, word-tumbling style is a wicked delight, even if you don’t understand a word.”

*Saturday Night*

“Aside from her wonderful voice and different collection of songs, Lamond will envelope you in an unknown world of spoken word that is at the same time familiar and welcoming.”

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*The Georgia Straight*

“ . . . Lamond’s alternately soothing and commanding performances.”

*NOW*