

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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## First Lady of Guitar to be first treat of Christmas season

by *Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1058461/25559248/1413552036170/Liona-Boyd-The-Uxbridge-Cosmos.pdf?token=8EciXxXMDZcf84ulbbxYI9mPX9k%3D>

Uxbridge is getting a very special early Christmas present this year - world-famous classical guitarist Liona Boyd is visiting the Uxbridge Music Hall on November 14, one of the first venues that will get to hear a few songs from her brand new sea-

sonal album *A Winter Fantasy*.

"I likely won't play a lot of Christmas songs, as it will be a little early yet, but I'll certainly perform a few!" promised Ms. Boyd in an phone interview from her home in

Toronto.

This will be Liona Boyd's second

visit to Uxbridge. She was last here

in April, 1986, and many still remember her performance.

"She was wonderful," recalls Lisa Boyce, who attended the concert. "At one point she just sat down on the edge of the stage and told us she was going to try out a song that she was just working on, and did we mind? Did we mind? Of course not!

It was fabulous!"

The new album, just released

this past Tuesday, features both traditional Christmas music mixed with original material, all displaying the unique, clas- sic sounds that only Ms. Boyd is able to coax out of a guitar. The album is mostly instru- mental, with magical orches- trations and arrangements by Peter Bond and Michael Savona; Savona will also per- form at the concert. Ms. Boyd, whose singing voice is aptly likened to Enya's, sings *O Holy Night*, as well as two original Christmas songs: Alone on

*Christmas Day*, and *My Special Christmas Present is You*.

Ms. Boyd says that the concert won't be "high energy, but more ethereal, beautiful, and relaxing."

She promises to play many songs from her last album *The Return - To Canada with Love*, which was released last year.

Popularly known as "The First Lady of the Guitar", Ms. Boyd is in a class of her own, and such a big name in Uxbridge is not a common occurrence. Ms. Boyd was invited to play in Uxbridge by Danny Pettit, founder of "Notes for Charity", a new organization that will work with charitable organizations to bring big name entertainment into town and provide excellent fundraising opportunities. Proceeds from this concert will go towards the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario, and towards the

Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation. Pettit is excited to be hosting this inaugural concert for his foundation.

“Having been a fan of Liona Boyd

and her music, I was very fortunate to meet her last fall at a performance in Toronto. We had a wonderful conversation, and she invited me to a concert she was doing at a church in Newmarket. Post-performance, I just asked her if she'd perform at a benefit concert at the Uxbridge Music Hall, and she replied “Absolutely, Danny.” We are honored and privileged to have both Liona Boyd and Michael Savona performing for us.”

Ms. Boyd, who has recorded 22 albums throughout her illustrious career, says that she is enjoying this “second chapter” of her career.

“I love to sing. And I left a comfy life in Beverley Hills to return to Canada because I really felt that I had more music inside of me that I had to share,” she explains.

Many are under the mistaken notion that Ms. Boyd had stopped recording and performing because of hand problems that made it difficult to play the guitar. She did have Musician's Focal Dystopia, a neurological disorder that often affects professional musicians who do very intricate work on a regular basis. She overcame this setback, however, and is taking to the stage again, albeit at smaller venues.

“I love playing the smaller places. I love the intimacy, and the way the music sounds. You can so much more personal with the music, and I really enjoy that. I also get to meet people afterwards, and I really think I owe that to my audiences,” she says.

Everyone is welcome to attend this possibly once-in-a-lifetime event. “I hope that people bring their kids to this concert,” exclaims Ms. Boyd. “It could be the one that transforms them. That's what happened to me! It may just inspire them to take up the guitar!”

Tickets for the November 14 concert are \$60 each, and are available at [www.starticketing.com](http://www.starticketing.com), by visiting Sugar FX or Little Acorn in Uxbridge, or by contacting Danny Pettit at 905 706 1750.