

## Management

**fam**GROUP


4202 Saint-Urbain  
Montréal, Québec H2W 1V3  
514.844.7393 vox  
514.844.9899 fax  
info@famgroup.ca  
www.famgroup.ca

## Bookings

**Marilyn Gilbert**

1.888.899.2298 free  
416.410.8224 vox  
416.651.7939 fax  
416.846.6426 mobile

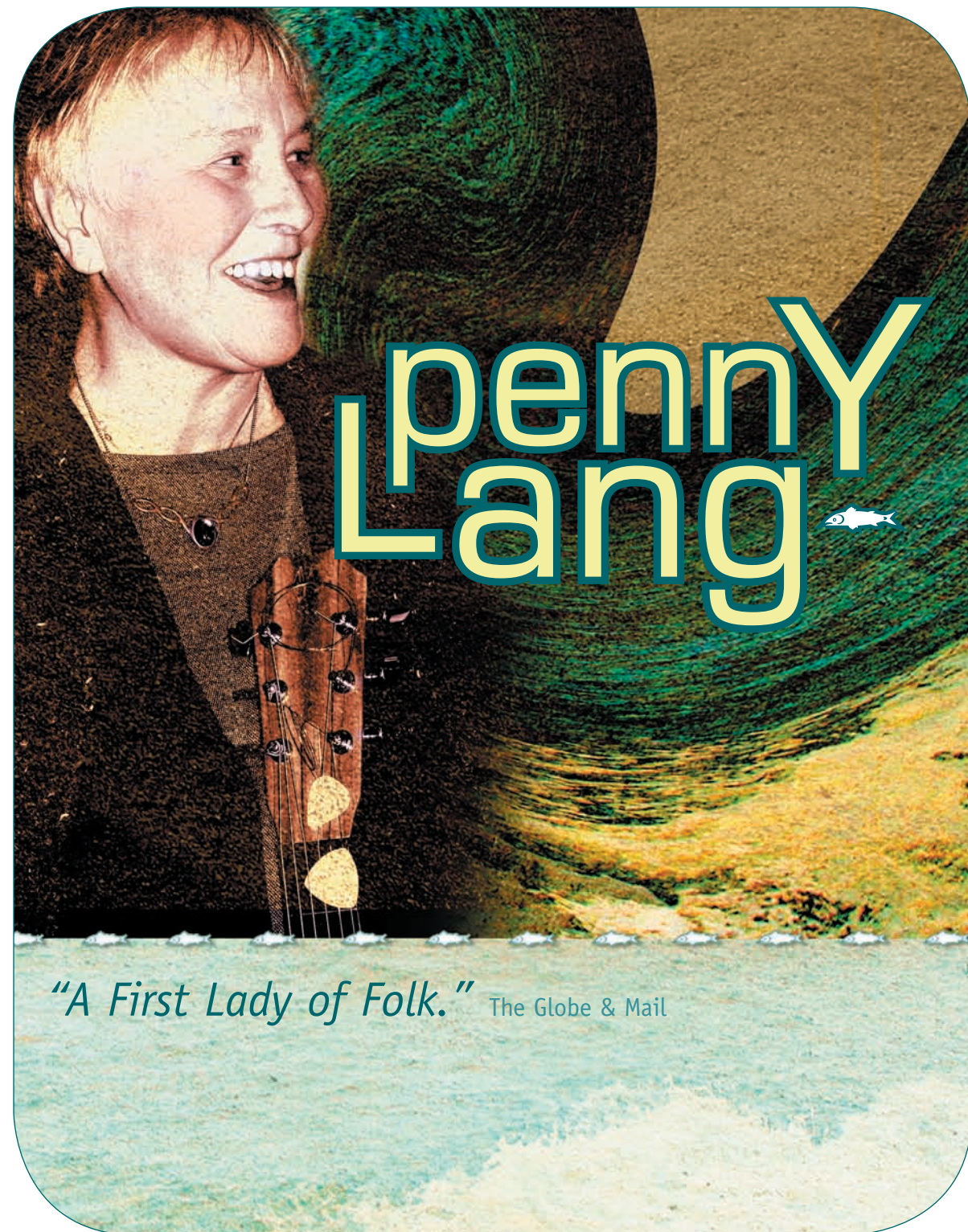


 The Canada Council for the Arts  
Le Conseil des Arts du Canada

Société  
de développement  
des entreprises  
culturelles  
Québec 

 **SheWolf**  
DISQUES • RECORDS

 **Borealis**  
www.borealisrecords.com



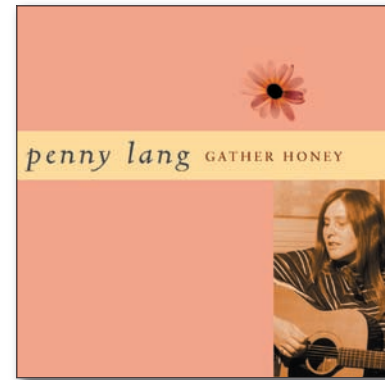
*"A First Lady of Folk."* The Globe & Mail



*"I love what she does and who she is...I go from one end of this country to another and I meet people who are singing her songs or songs they learned from her"* **Ken Whiteley**

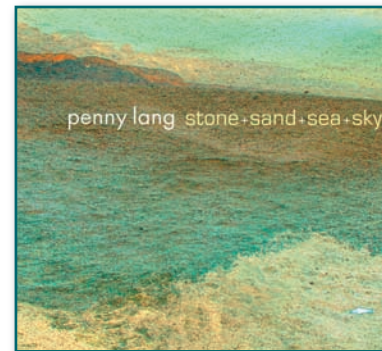
*"Her voice is an extraordinarily charismatic instrument."* **Joe Cushley, MoJo, UK**

**Penny Lang** emerged on the North American music scene in the 1960s. Her powerful interpretations and originals in folk, blues, country and gospel have gained her a large and devoted following as "a superb singer of sardonic folk material...(she is) hugely entertaining" wrote The Toronto Star. "Lang inhabits her songs with humour, grace and ease, expressing with the quiet authority and authenticity of someone who has lived ...light and dark... Her voice is instantly recognizable, soothing, unadorned, naked." (Penguin Eggs, summer 2006) Her songs are emotionally powerful observations of the human condition, sometimes poignant, sometimes hilarious, mostly memorable.



**GATHER HONEY** Borealis Records/2001. Retrospective album 1963-1978 with liner notes by folk historian Gary Cristall; JUNO nomination; many originals by Penny's contemporaries of the day.

**STONE+SAND+SEA+SKY** Borealis/Koch 2006 (see attached reviews) Prod. Roma Baran, Vivian Stoll; with Michael Jerome Browne, Kate McGarrigle, Dave Clarke, Ken Pearson, Gaston Bernard...



*"a gutsy, authoritative interpreter of all kinds of folk music with a special love for the blues. A major talent...As a historical document, this CD and its package materials are utterly fabulous. This set will leave lovers of folk music hungering for Lang's all-too-few other recordings. A voice you will want to live with constantly for quite some time."* **Victory Music Review, USA**

*"There are no misguided attempts to cure the world's ills through songs lifted from someone else's misunderstanding folk culture; Penny Lang takes contemporary urban folk and blues songs and delivers them in a voice both powerful and unaffected."* **Rick Anderson, All Music Guide USA**

*"One of the joys of working in 'folk music' is that it has a history and the elders are revered. Pete Seeger in America, Ewan McColl in BritaIn, and in Canada, among those who have lived their lives nobly in folk music is Penny Lang from Montreal... Gather Honey is a very high, high up for Penny Lang"* **Les Simeniuk, Penguin Eggs Magazine**

*"...here are her back pages recorded live, with no overdubs, no vocal histrionics, no marketing budget and "straight from the heart feel"- I'd almost forgotten how unpretentiousness sounds but here it is."* **Living Tradition, UK**

*"An incredible record! I totally get her... the communication, the vulnerability. The arrangements are stunning... a world-class package." I really, really, really, really like it!"* **Larry LeBlanc, Canadian Bureau Chief, Billboard**

*"Lang's vocal depth and projection enhanced by her flawless interpretation of the song message borders on being of divine right as she attracts the listener to her inner sanctum."* **Walt Grealis, RPM Weekly**

**BALLING THE JACK** OCHO/Union Square Music UK/IR 2002 (one cut); re-defining the blues.

*“an intriguing collection...it includes...a lot of people I’ve never heard of before including Penny Lang...”* **Charlie Gillett, BBC London, UK** (BALLING THE JACK)

**MICHAEL JEROME BROWNE & The Twin Rivers String Band**, 2004, Borealis Records (1 cut).

**THE LEGACY OF REVEREND GARY DAVIS** Inside Sounds, Memphis; 2002 (one cut)



**SOMEBODY ELSE** SheWolf/Festival Distribution, 1999

Produced by David Baxter, with Jason Lang, Michelle Josef, Bazil Donovan, David Baxter, Lori Yates, Linda Feijo. Penny Lang originals, two co-writes, and two Bob covers (Snider and Cohen).

*“Powerful, soulful voice and rootsy music with apparent traces of Memphis (and occasionally Detroit) soul, Louisiana gumbo music. Bo Diddley unplugged, middle period Dylan, and a host of other influences ...a very listenable album...”* **Folk on Tap-UK**

*“A take on Dylan’s love Minus Zero No Limit’ doesn’t stand out in any way in a collection of self-penned songs, which says it all”* **Record Buyer, UK**

*“..and secondly the quite brilliant Penny Lang. Part folk-keen, part blues-growl, her voice is an extraordinarily charismatic instrument- album of the month by a country mile.”* **Joe Cushley, MOJO Filter, UK**

Born in east-end Montréal to a musical family, Penny Lang learned the ropes in prisons, hospitals, churches, camps and dusty old theatres. During the 1960s she performed at major folk festivals (Philadelphia, Mariposa.), folk clubs and countless bars throughout North America. Her mentors were Dave vanRonk and Kate McGarrigle; she hung with Stevie Wonder and the Reverend Gary Davis; she adored Nina Simone and Pete Seeger. A near brush with fame occurred when she was asked to record Leonard Cohen’s Suzanne for a US major label but it was not to be. Her darkest years lay ahead of her, and Penny left regular performing in 1970 after the birth of her son Jason.

In 1988, after some time living in rural Québec, Penny re-emerged a stronger woman and a more powerful force. With the help of friends she directed her energies into songwriting, and was welcomed back to an adoring public. She became the darling of le tout Montréal, virtually precipitating a folk/roots revival. Dobros and mandolins, harmonicas and accordions; singalongs, jump-ups, improv: these were the magic of Penny’s shows, which could best be described as “happenings”. Eventually the rest of Canada caught on, “when she re-emerged in the late ‘80’s...it was as if a folk music resurrection had taken place” said Alan Neister of The Globe & Mail, who also crowned her “a first lady of folk”.

Since returning to the stage, Penny Lang has once again taken to the road. There have been countless tours in North America, and she’s also performed in Australia, Italy, Denmark, France & the UK. She also finally began to record: six critically acclaimed albums, Yes (1991), Live at the Yellow Door (1992), Ain’t Life Sweet (1993), Carry on Children (1996), Penny Lang & Friends Live, (1998) and Somebody Else

*“I first heard Penny sing at the Montreal Folk Workshop...I heard passion, I heard vulnerability, and I heard complete candour about pretty much everything. She’s a gospel voice, you might say, a gospel singer with the blues.”*

**Jesse Winchester**

*“The fresh, jazzy feel-good voice of Penny soft sells her message of peace and understanding amongst us all.”* **Kate McGarrigle**

(1999), on SheWolf/Festival brought to the forefront Penny’s thoughtful songwriting and soulful vocals. A new chapter of Penny’s career began as she was signed to Canada’s top folk music label, Borealis. A compilation titled Gather Honey (2001) garnered Penny her first JUNO nomination. It is a remarkable collection of bootleg tapes and archival recordings from 1963 through 1978, representing a unique portrait of the Montreal folk scene at that time.

Penny Lang’s eighth recording “Stone + Sand + Sea + Sky” was released in May 2006, also on Borealis/Koch. The album was produced by the Grammy-nominated, New York-based team of Roma Baran and Vivian Stoll. It has been receiving excellent press and radio play and reflects the dreams that led to her move to the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia where her new abode is but forty feet from the sea. Far from being her swan song, however, it has given Penny a health boost and she continues to tour regularly.

Penny recently received the first Prix Folqui (Lifetime Achievement) award from Folquébec; a book is being prepared on her extraordinary life.

## Selected performances

**CANADA Yukon** Frostbite Festival; Guild Hall, Whitehorse **Northwest Territories** Folk on the Rocks Festival, Yellowknife **British Columbia** Railway Club, Winter Roots Festival, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Folk Festival; Smithers Midsummer Festival; Under the Volcano, Nelson; Cowichan Folk Festival, Islands (Comox Valley) Folk Festival, Skidmore Hall, Queen Charlotte Is; William Head Institution, Victoria **Alberta** Calgary Folk Festival, Edmonton Folk Festival, South Country Fair, Lethbridge Folk Club, Grande Prairie Theatre **Saskatchewan** Regina Guild of Folk Arts **Manitoba** Winnipeg Folk Festival, West End Cultural Centre **Ontario** Hugh's Room, Toronto Blues Society Women's Blues Revue (Bloor St. United Church); Soul & Blues Fest, Harbourfront, NXNE, Mariposa Festival, Toronto; Ottawa Folk Festival, GCTC's Siren Series, National Gallery, National Arts Centre 4th stage, Ottawa; Northern Lights Festival, Sudbury; Festival of Friends, Hamilton; Summerfolk, Owen Sound; Home Country Folk Festival, London; Three Fires Native Festival, Wikwemikong; Blue Skies Festival, Kingston; Hillside Festival, Guelph; Woods Folk Music and Dance Camp, Muskoka **Quebec** Montreal International Jazz Festival, le Spectrum, 350th Anniversary of Montréal, Club Soda, Cabaret, Corona Theatre, Cafe Campus, Place des Arts, La Sala Rossa, Yellow Door, Penny Lang House Festival, Montréal; Palais Montcalm, Festival des Nuits Black, Quebec; Black Sheep Inn, Wakefield; Bishop's University, Lennoxville; Carleton Blues Fest, Festival Blues de Mt-Tremblant **Nova Scotia** Lunenburg FolkFest, Halifax Natal Day Festival, Stan Rogers Festival, Bras d'Or Festival **PEI** Milton Acorn Festival, Charlottetown

**USA Vermont** First Night Burlington **Maine** Left Bank, Blue Hill **New Hampshire** Great Waters Music Festival, Wolfeboro **Massachusetts** Club Passim, Cambridge; Johnny D's, Somerville; Joyful Noise Coffeehouse, Boston; Falconridge Folk Festival **New York** The Living Room; Café Sin-E, The Bitter End, Gerde's Folk City, CB's Gallery, NYC; Caffè Lena, Saratoga Springs; the Eighth Step, Albany; Universities tour **Pennsylvania** Philadelphia Folk Festival **Illinois** Uncommon Ground, Chicago **Michigan** The Ark, Ann Arbor; Paint Creek Folklore Society, Rochester Hills **Washington D.C.** Canadian Embassy, North American Folk Alliance concert **Texas** Chicago House, Austin (SXSW) **Tennessee** B.B. King's Palace, Memphis **California** Strawberry Festival, Yosemite; Freight & Salvage, Berkeley **Florida** South Florida Festival, Fort Lauderdale

**AUSTRALIA** National Folk Festival, Canberra; Port Fairy Folk Festival, Apollo Bay Festival, Sutherland, Illawara, Toowoomba, Mena Creek, Melbourne, Yandina, Airlie Beach folk clubs

**EUROPE Denmark** Tonder Folk Festival **Italy** Folk House, Udine; Donato Castle, Pesina; Teatro Acquario, Cosenza; Villa Boselli, Arma di Taggia; Armadillo Club, Sarzana; Folk Club, Cesena **UK** Edinburgh Blues Festival; Folk on the Farm, Chichester; Pontardawe Festival (**Wales**); Edinburgh Fringe Festival; One Big World Fest, Ramshorn Theatre, Glasgow (**Scotland**); Hi There Festival, Hayling Island; Artesium, Luton; Birdsedge, Huddersfield; International Festival, Crawley; Coco Bay Hotel, Guernsey; Canada House, London **France** La Peniche Spectacles, Rennes; Chapelle la Trinité, Concarneau; Le Bataclan, Brest; La Tisanerie, St-Nazaire; Les Chantiers de l'Atlantique, St-Nazaire; Pince Oreille, Poitiers

**OLD FOLKSINGER'S PICK** 1995 (cassette), produced by Bob Bossin (two cuts).

**A TRIBUTE TO MISSISSIPPI BLUESMAN EUGENE POWELL** Independent, due for release in 2007, (one cut)

**HERE & NOW** 1995, One cut on the United Nations 50th Anniversary recording. Produced by the Canada Council and Sony Music Special Projects.

**CARRY ON CHILDREN** SheWolf Records/Festival Distribution, 1996. Producer: Ken Whiteley. With special guests: Moxy Frúvous, Colin Linden, Quartette, Ken & Chris Whiteley, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Garnet Rogers, and others. Half of the songs self-penned, half original Canadian .

**PENNY & FRIENDS LIVE** SheWolf/Festival Distribution, Nov. 98. Producers: Heidi Fleming, Simon Pressey and Penny Lang. With: Jason Lang, Michael Browne, Bill Gossage, Bob Stagg, Ken & Chris Whiteley, Jody Golick, Martin Boodman, Linda Morrison, Kim Richardson; mainly traditional songs.

*"...she draws strength and power from the songs, the musicians, and the audience to turn in inspired, and often inspiring performances... soaring..."*

**Mike Regenstrief, Sing Out! magazine**

*"...Penny Lang is not only a great singer-songwriter but also a superb performer... a CD to enjoy over and over again."*

**Int'l Dr. Nina Simone Society, Antwerp, Belgium**



*"Emotional Power Rarely Equalled... (headline) she is able to generate more emotion with her voice than probably 90 per cent of practising musicians... enhances one's respect of her musical and songwriting skill."*  
**Lynn Saxberg, Ottawa Citizen**

*"Lang is a wonderful blues performer... a stellar cast of Canada's finest bring out a casual elegance in her work."*  
**Paul-Emile Comeau, Dirty Linen**

*"an intimate but powerful sound... stories veiled in the ironic sweetness of her... path to success... highly recommended."*  
**Mauro Eufrosini, Soul'n Jazz Plus, Italy (tr)**

*"(she)... possesses a greatness of spirit, which... (while she is) so clearly identified with the '60's, her music is well anchored in the present..."*  
**Claude Côté, Paroles & Musique, SOCAN (tr)**





## Discography

**YES** 1991 SheWolf Records/Festival Distribution. With Jason Lang, Scot Lang, Ken Pearson, Linda Morrison, Pat Donaldson, Michel Donato, Miche Pouliot, Jody Golick, Producers Scot Lang/Jody Golick; Penny's first originals and songs by close friends

*"Bluesy pipes... a riveting stage presence... a candidate for stardom"*

**Lucinda Chodan, The Gazette**

**PENNY LANG LIVE AT THE YELLOW DOOR** 1992/97 SheWolf Records/Festival Dist. Solo, live at the Yellow Door's 25th anniversary. Prod. Simon Pressey, Heidi Fleming '60's era classics, new and old

*"...a unique performer of special calibre and impeccable credentials... a cultural treasure, representing a long and deep tradition of troubadours who uplift through their musical art..."*

**Craig Morrison, author "Go Cat Go"**

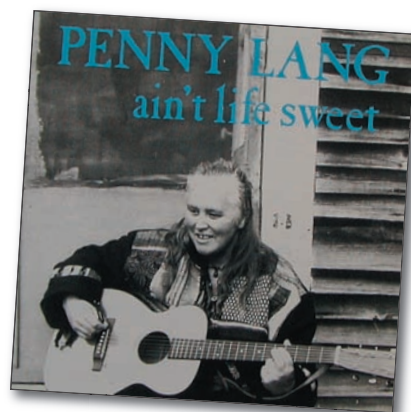
**AIN'T LIFE SWEET** 1993, SheWolf Records/Festival Distribution. Prod. P. Lang, James Carrier. With Jason and Scot Lang, Ray Bonneville, Rick Haworth, Danielle Martineau, Michel Donato, Linda Morrison and many more. All Penny Lang originals save one.

*"...dynamite album... There are lots of blues numbers mixed beautifully with country-edged folk and folk-edged country. This east-end Montrealler has an exceptional vocal gift that shouldn't fall through the cracks... Penny Lang was superb..."*

**Walt Grealis RPM, Toronto**

*"...dans le folk, Madame Lang excelle."*

**Laurent Saulnier, VOIR, Montréal**



## Television, radio

Radio Nation, with Laura Flanders, Air America Radio (hour-long interview and live concert)

Bound for Glory, WVBR Ithaca, NY (live concert)

Live with Gene Shay on WXPB, Philadelphia, PA

The Yellow Door Forever, Amerimage-Spectra/Global TV

TV Ontario, Studio Two (Toronto)

Live concerts on WERS, Boston

Live with Dick Pleasants on WUMB, Boston

Dick Sherman feature, WQXR, "Woody's Children" NYC

Entertainment Desk, Global TV, Eye on Toronto, CFTO TV

Petrie in Prime, CBC Newsworld

Choix de Sophie, Télé Québec, Montréal

The Entertainers, Musical Friends, Simply Folk, Morningside, (CBC Radio)

L'Heure G, Les Trois Moustiquaires (Radio-Canada TV)

The World's Longest Day, AIDS Telethon, Concordia University TV

Radio McGill (CKUT), University de Montreal (CISM)

Rogers Cable Community Station (Ottawa)

KFAI St-Paul/Minneapolis

CKUA Alberta/CJSW Calgary

Ryerson University (CKLN); University of Toronto (CIUT)

On the Road Again, City Beat (CBC TV)

Teddy Bear's Picnic, CJAD Radio, Montreal

Late Night with Dennis Trudeau, CBC TV, Montreal

CIBL Radio Communautaire, Montreal, L'Inspecteur Epingle

## Film, video

Penny is the subject of a documentary video about her by Montrealler Jocelyne Clarke entitled: Stand Up: On High Ground with Penny Lang, which aired on CFCF TV in Jan. and August 1999 and which premiered at the Silver Images Film Festival in Chicago; also a short for CBC-TV's On the Road Again, seen nationally in the '90's. She has written music for two films: Oscar-winner Terre Nash's 1995 NFB documentary on economics from women's perspective entitled "Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics", and a 1995 documentary "Speakeasy: Women Talkin' Mostly 'Bout Men" made at Emerson College, Boston, directed by Bridget A. Murnane, exploring women's relationships. She has made two video-clips: Ain't Life Sweet, and Somebody Else...

## Honours

Penny has received numerous awards and bursaries, including the Canada Council for the Arts; FACTOR; le Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec; SOCAN; the 1996 Porcupine Award for Perseverance "Harry Hibbs" (Toronto); and the inaugural FOLQUI award from Folquébec in 2003.

## Concert reviews and testimonials

"You know you've got a friend there, allowing you to relax and feel better and cry or whatever...Penny's certainly someone to celebrate"  
**Annabelle Chvostek** (The Wailing Jennys)

"In her sixties now, she still has such presence and power that she can make your spine tingle, and when she reached way back into her repertoire and sang 'We Shall Overcome', many in the audience were overcome. People swayed and joined hands, and sang with her."  
**Documentary filmmaker John S. Hatch, at the closing ceremonies of the World Peace Forum in Vancouver, BC**

"Simply beautiful...I had to try to NOT let myself get into it too much! – it's SO beautiful and moving...your voice has this vulnerable quality... and you make it SO available to us..." **Shelagh Rogers, host of Sounds Like Canada, CBC Radio**

"Penny's CD launch weekend here was wonderful... a whole evening of Penny and (son) Jason in a comfortable and intimate setting, with a rapt audience" **A fan, Ottawa, ON**

"I like her warm lived-in voice" **Suze Rotollo, New York City, after a show at the Living Room, NYC**

On the Air America Laura Flanders show: "If you missed Lang you missed some wonderful music and wonderful conversations" **Third Estate Sunday Review**

...back from the Vancouver Island Musicfest (2006) and had another amazing time. Penny Lang continues to be sweet and wonderful... after this many years everything she does is about the heart of the music..."

**Tom Coxworth, radio host, reviewing Vancouver Island Music Festival , BC**

"Penny is especially Great!!! She was a favourite to many. The Chapel with her and David Essig and Valdy was superb! "

**Brent Hutchinson, Islands Folk Festival, Victoria, BC**

"My favorite comment was that of an 8 year old boy. His dad asked him how he enjoyed the concert and he replied that it wasn't really a concert. More like a "visit". Got to love kids."

**Elizabeth Inkster, Concerts at the Edge of the World, Queen Charlotte Islands, BC**

"The only disappointment I found was that the evening only lasted about 5 hours; it could have gone on forever." **Christine, www.Orcasound.com, Penny Lang Tribute Concert review**

"Everything I would have hoped for from a musical icon – the highlights were (Penny's) drumming and gospel workshops" **Paul Lowenberg, Northern Lights Festival Boréale, Sudbury, ON**

"I've seen her really lift people up with her music and I've seen her express sadness, the blues – but I think it's her ability to connect with people... it's what I strive for in my music" **Eve Goldberg, folk musician**



"...a strong woman with a bluesy angle to her music and a political bent to her lyrics. And she's a lot of fun."  
**WVBR Bound for Glory, Ithaca, NY**

"It may sound cliché but Penny Lang is a national treasure. The talented, soulful Lang invests every show she performs with an unbelievable sense of joy and she ensures she connects with every person in the audience. Whether she's playing for 5 people or 5,000 her enthusiasm for the music is infectious and her charm is undeniable." **Joe Riley, Acoustic Waves, GCTC, Ottawa, ON**

"Ses folksongs étaient imbibées de gospel, de blues, de ragtime, de country, de swing, et racontaient de sympathiques leçons de la vie pas pontifiantes pour deux sous... J'étais tout aussi fasciné par le personnage qu'envoûté par sa voix..."  
**Sylvain Cormier, Le Devoir, Montréal**

### Tribute concert: Ain't Life Sweet

*Held at la Sala Rossa in Montreal (May 2003) artists who participated were: Eve Goldberg, Beverley McGuire, The Echo Hunters, Ivy, Ken Whiteley, Chris Rawlings, Connie Kaldor, Annabelle Chvostek, Evalyn Parry, Linda Morrison, Kirk McGeachie, Stephen Barry, Les Ours, Cheryl Neill, Maria Dunn, Steel Rail and Bill Garrett/ Sue Lothrop in an event best described as a love-in: artists performed a song of Penny's and one of their own; Penny closed the evening herself with a jam session. The event was captured on various media....*