

Stone+ sand+ sea+ sky



What they've been saying.

“ Penny Lang calls her album Stone & Sand & Sea & Sky, but not because she has seemingly been around as long as the elements themselves. No, the title reflects the veteran folk singer's move from Montreal to British Columbia, where she has found solace and natural comfort....Her voice is perfectly imperfect, with a husk and slight slur to it. And even though most of the songs were not written by Lang, she is fit well, the material clothing her as vulnerable and earthy. **Brad Wheeler, The Globe & Mail**

...an incredible record... I totally get her now... 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**

Penny Lang has crafted her finest record in a career that has, itself, ebbed and flowed over its 40+ year span. A true epiphany... warm, luxurious and highly intimate... **Her**

...honey-on-burled-oak of a voice blends with deft and varied arrangements that accentuate, but never overpower, the song... a real accomplishment. **Eric Thom, Exclaim, Toronto**

A deeply moving meditation on life and love and the cracks in between. Lang makes all of the (songs) her own, whether bluesy or jazzy or folk to the bone. **Robert Reid, Arts Reporter The Record, Kitchener, ON**

...the finest album in her illustrious career. ...filmmaker and performance art producer Roma Baran has created a stunning aural landscape for some truly fine songs. Her work with Laurie Anderson might have predicted otherwise but she has used a folk instrument palette to great effect... “Careless Love” is simply magnificent. This blues-drenched lesson of the price of careless love (paid many years later) makes most other versions redundant.” **Jon Valentyn, Maple Blues Magazine, Toronto**

A recent recipient of a lifetime achievement award from Folquébec, over 40 odd years, six records and countless nationwide tours she has become nothing short of a national treasure in the world of Canadian folk. ... Lang worked with (Roma) Baran last year for the first time in over three decades. The result is Stone & Sand & Sea & Sky, a spare and sublime collection of late-night, back-

porch roots lullabies, and Lang's first record in over seven years. Produced with delicate precision...the 13 plaintive tracks, which roam from tranquil folk and rustic country blues to Parisian jazz and Celtic ballads with fluid grace, reveal a more intimate, inviting side... **Steve Baylin, Ottawa Express**

This may sound weird, but in order to grasp the essence of Montreal's Grande Dame of folk-blues' new album, one should first listen to another of her records: the extraordinary Gather Honey, with songs recorded by Penny between 1963 and 1978: with its magnificently simple arrangements and Penny's powerful, organic voice... Only then can one appreciate to which point Stone & Sand & Sea & Sky is a delicate homage to the 63 year old singer by the reputed producer Roma Baran, (who herself started out with Penny in 1964... The incredibly rich arrangements that call upon a procession of instruments and friends allow Ms. Lang to sing her life story as if for you alone. It's beautiful and serene, at times different from anything she's done til now; yet fits perfectly with her oeuvre. In short, to paraphrase French songwriter Michel Berger on the late Ella Fitzgerald, Penny Lang too, has “soul matter: a special voice/a special joy/this gift from above/renders her beautiful”. **Marie Christine Blais, LaPresse, Montreal** (tr)

Canadian Folk Royalty (headline) Stark honesty and vulnerable passion... a stunning achievement. **Kazu Watanabe, Aquarian Weekly, NJ Tri-States**

This new album of mostly blues, folk and country covers... makes up for lost ground....Recorded leisurely, it finds Lang singing in a deeper, richer register than before, luxuriating in songs such as the traditional Careless Love and Dylan's One Too Many Mornings. **** **Pat Langston, Ottawa Citizen**

Penny Lang has made an auspicious re-entry with a new album... ingeniously produced and arranged by former Montreal bandmate Roma Baran, the ears behind New York art-song composer and performance artist Laurie Anderson and her studio partner Vivian Stoll... a quiet contemplative piece of work... underscored with a sense of suspended wonder. **Greg Quill, Toronto Star**

The finest album of her long career, and unlike anything she has done before... **Mike Regenstrief, Sing Out!**

Whether Lang likes it or not, she is a folk icon and she's back in the saddle with her just-released terrific new album... **Richard Burnett, Three Dollar Bill, HOUR**

If we were in the States, or the UK or France, no doubt Penny Lang would be an object of serious cult worship, with her brilliant loser's life...but she's from Montreal, where an (Anglo) singer/guitarist of the incandescent folk genre for over 40 years doesn't account for much, generally speaking. With her new album... there is hope that she'll finally become better-known at home... **Marie-Christine Blais, La Presse, Montreal** (tr)

Simply beautiful... it's SO beautiful and moving... your voice has this vulnerable quality... **Shelagh Rogers, host, Sounds Like Canada, CBC Radio**

Penny Lang Finds Peace (headline) The veteran singer and songwriter, so closely identified with the city's folk music scene...has taken up residence on BC's Sunshine Coast...the change of scenery has given Lang a new burst of energy and creativity, resulting in a new album...It may just be the best of her long career... **Mary Lamey, the Gazette, Montreal feature article**

continued...

“ Penny Lang is back, sounding stronger and more gently swinging than ever. The mood here is intimate and reflective, thanks in part to co-producers Roma Baran and Vivian Stoll, who had Lang stand close to the mike and sing quietly, conversationally. A who's who of local roots musicians contributes.... Unusual instruments - chiming metal bowls, marimba, vibraphone, flugelhorn - add depth and texture, but Lang's worn voice, as familiar as an old friend, is the album's heart and soul. [Mary Lamey, the Gazette, Montreal album review](#)

A veritable renaissance...Stone & Sand & Sea and Sky offers arrangements that support the meaningful songs... [D. Lelievre, VOIR Magazine, Montreal](#) (tr)

The Folk Mother of Montreal... propels us into a sophisticated atmosphere... as she lets herself dream freely... Proof of her "succes d'estime", an encyclopedic array of Canadian roots musicians accompany her in this intimate dance. Rating: 8.5 on 10. [Yves Bernard, Magazine ICI, Montreal](#) (tr)

The other Lang (headline) Folk sweetheart Penny Lang comes to town for the local launch of her CD Stone And Sand And Sea And Sky. Her first studio album in seven years, produced by Roma Baran and featuring Kate McGarrigle, caps a remarkable four-decade career for this 63-year-old lesbian from Montreal – one of Canada's leading roots-based artists. [Xtra, Toronto](#)

Gently Legendary (headline) ...a natural... [Naam van-Veer, Folkprints, cover article, FolkPrints, Ontario Council of Folk Festivals](#)

... the best album of Penny's career... [Mike Regenstrief, CKUT Radio, Montreal](#)

The First Lady of Folk... Penny Lang took the bull by the horns and returned to the studio with Roma Baran, her longtime guitarist and protégé before she became a Grammy and Oscar nominated producer, to record... a polished album... it contains songs that were chosen with care in order to cover all of the artists' vocal colours... [Patrick Gauthier, Journal de Montréal](#) (tr)

A Miracle Called Penny Lang (headline) I nearly didn't write about Stone & Sand & Sea & Sky this week... not because I didn't like it, but to the contrary, I wanted to keep this new Penny Lang record for myself, selfishly, like a secret garden in which to find refuge on those days where you have to hit bottom before seeing the light. But is that not the definition of the blues... Over 40 years, Penny Lang has rubbed elbows with tons of brilliant musicians, many of whom link up with her here... Kate McGarrigle, Michael Jerome Brown... Ken Pearson, and not forgetting Roma Baran, whose impeccable yet simple production makes listening to this album a pure pleasure... [Dominique Denis, L'Express, Toronto](#) (tr)

The Promised Land of Penny Lang (headline) Four words, Stone & Sand & Sea & Sky... summarize the continuing voyage of one who, for 40 years, has borne all of life's hardships... her voice calmer than ever... the great lady seems to be finding inner peace. And there is light in the distance! [Yves Bernard, Le Devoir, Montreal](#) (tr)

I've been LOVING Penny's album. I mean REALLY LOVING it. It's one of the best albums I've heard in a very long time. [Eve Goldberg, folk musician, Toronto](#)

A gentle collection of well-crafted folksongs... Lang's rich alto delivery is saturated with her life experiences... her perspective incredibly affecting... it is like a folk festival soundtrack. [Alissa Witts, SWERVE, Manitoba](#)

(Headline) Folk icon Penny Lang delivers stunning new album. [Whitehorse Star](#)

Penny Lang is in my ears and in my eyes (headline) [OpiniatedLesbian.com](#)