

Monique Barry Opens Up Creative Roads and Sets her New Single Free

For release May 25th, 2016

TORONTO/ When a musical project is described as a work in progress, the assumption is that it's too soon for audience presentation. But singer-songwriter Monique Barry has always charted her own maps and methods for creating and introducing new music to her listeners.

Monique is presenting her as-yet unnamed new album to the public as a series of singles, each released upon completion. **Open Road**, the first single, will receive its radio release June 2016.

A shimmering, sweeping meditation on transition and independence, *Open Road* features counterpointing musical textures, soaring harmonies, and many reflections on experience, insight, gain, and loss. Monique's beguiling vocals act as both the song's anchor and axis, with captivating results. Gentle and uplifting, *Open Road* can stand with the best of her songwriting output.

As well as providing Monique with a new musical drama to explore and vocalize, *Open Road* features the participation and inspiration of **Marc Meriläinen** (guitar), **Alisdair Jones** (bass), **Terrence O'Brien** aka **Anomalous Disturbances** (ambient sonics), **Emma Campbell** (vocals), and **Michael Wojewoda** (mixing/drums).

One of the most innovative artists in today's independent music scene, singer-songwriter Monique Barry has been hailed for her "hypnotic mystique" (eye magazine), "dynamic vocal range" (The Independent Weekly), and "delicious sounds and shadows" (Queens Journal). Classically trained in voice and piano, and keenly interested in the power of pop songwriting, Monique has forged a style that marries the everyday to the otherworldly, resulting in musical dreamscapes teeming with innovations, oddities, emotional echoes, and the many stops and starts along the human journey. Her aesthetic range is captured on a quartet of CD's: the supernaturally minimalist campus favorite **moody** (1998); **Tripping** (2003), which brings together an ambitious mix of folk, lounge, rock, classical, ambient soundscaping, and techno pop; the haunting **Carbon** (2009), which saw Monique hitting new levels of musical expression; and **Wake** (2013), a bewitchingly vivid musical mosaic. A well-recognized figure on Toronto's club scene, she has performed at the Toronto Jazz Festival, Fresh Wednesdays at Nathan Phillips Square, the Gabriola Island Dancing Man Folk Festival, Winterfolk, May Works, and at numerous Ontario and Quebec dates with Indigo Books. She was the founder, impresario, and host of The Songwriters Expo, a regular performance event celebrating the talents of Canadian songwriters for ten years. Always broadening her horizons, Monique recently scored **Jonah Griesman's** film **Recital** (2016). She also collaborated with **Alex Mine** in scoring the **Colin Carter** documentary **Fight for the Planet** (2009) and was a guest producer on the **Arlene Bishop** CD **Twenty Four is Twelve Twice or Twenty Four** (2011). She teaches music as well, and has her own line of skin care products, Aunt Bird's All-Natural Skin Care.

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