

Liona Boyd

The Return... to Canada with Love

I. Spirit of the Canadian Northlands

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

Oh Great Spirit of the northern waters
Of the northern lakes, and the northern forests
I feel you in the rocks, the sky, the trees, the rivers
The earth and the animals,
In the heartbeat of this mighty land

2. Silver Birch

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

Silver Birch
Scent of pine
Lakes and forests
Land of mine

Silver birch,
Cedar nights
Rocky islands,
Northern lights

Silver Birch
Scent of pine
Lakes and forests
Land of mine

Silver birch
Eagles cries
Raging rivers
Painted skies

Silver Birch
Harvest moons
Golden maples
Call of loons

Silver Birch
Scent of pine
Lakes and forests
Land of mine

Nehiyawaskiya
Nehiyawaskiya
Nehiyawaskiya
(*Silver Birch in the Ojibwe language*)

Silver birch
Morning haze
Flaming sumac
Summer days

Silver Birch
Winter night
Silent snowflakes
White on white

Silver Birch
Scent of pine
Lakes and forests
Land of mine
Lakes and forests
Land of mine
Land of mine
Land of mine

3. Emily Carr

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On the long summer nights when she lay awake
Listening to the sounds that the night owls make
When she walked in golden forests in the fall
She wanted to paint it all

She saw black bear's footprints in the dampened sand
And was awed by the totem poles of her native land
When she heard the loons and the ravens call
She wanted to paint it all

Victorian lady, Emily Carr
Born beneath a lonely star
She lived and loved and traveled far
But she returned to Vancouver Island

Free spirit and dreamer from the start
She moved to Paris to study art
But only nature soothed her restless heart
And she returned to Vancouver Island

Deep forest greens, tangled roots and trees
Swirling gray clouds on a salty breeze
Driftwood carved by stormy seas
On her beloved Vancouver Island

Broken hearted in England she almost died
The wounds of love left deep scars inside
But she packed up her bags when her tears had dried
And headed home to Vancouver Island

There the native tribes loved her quiet ways
Called her "laughing one" those magic mystic days
And her spirit shone through the books she'd write
In the cedar fire lit night

Victorian lady, Emily Carr
Born beneath a lonely star
She lived and loved and traveled far
But she returned to Vancouver Island

When her time ran out and confined to bed
Nature's powerful beauty still in her head
With each flower and forest she'd recall
How she'd wanted to paint it all

Victorian lady, Emily Carr
Born beneath a lonely star
She lived and loved and traveled far
But she returned to Vancouver Island

Free spirit and dreamer from the start
She gave the world her vibrant art
And we still feel her restless heart
On her beloved Vancouver Island
Yes we'll always feel her restless heart
On her beloved Vancouver Island.

4. Canadian Summer Dreams

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Summer cottage by the summer lake
Oh what joyful summer plans we'd make
Every weekend when we'd all escape
To the summer cottage by the lake

Paddling our canoes along the shore
Greeting neighbours at the country store
How could anyone have asked for more
Those were simple, happy days for sure

Canadian summer dreams
Cottages and lakes and streams
Lemonade and soft ice creams
Canadian summer dreams
la la la ...
Cottages and lakes and streams
Canadian summer dreams

That fishing place beside the granite rock
That musty boathouse with its rusty lock
Our swim suits drying on wooden dock
Who thought those summer days could ever stop

(spoken)

With family and friends we loved it all
Listening to the loons and wild geese call
The beaver dam, the pond, the waterfall
In those sun kissed summer days we had it all

Canadian summer dreams
Cottages and lakes and streams
Lemonade and soft ice creams
Canadian summer dreams
la la la ...
Cottages and lakes and streams
Canadian summer dreams

Magic lazy, hazy summer days
Children gathering wildflower bouquets
Ferry rides across the silver bays
Magic lazy, hazy summer days

5. You Drew Me Back Again

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I've lived in the mountains of Mexico
Slept in the desert under starry skies
One night when knives were drawn I danced until dawn
As mariachis sang me sad goodbyes
La la la ...

I lived in Le Chateau de Montgermont
Had a "chambre de bonne" a Paris
Inhaled those fresh-baked baguettes and Gitane cigarettes
I was penniless but Paris loved me

Yet somehow you drew me back again
Though I tried for many years to let you go
Some things you can't control, I guess you're in my soul
And maybe part of me I don't even know

In Morocco I rode camels cross the diamond sand
In San Jose I almost died it's true
And I almost froze with fright stalking tigers in the night
With my mother in Kathmandu
La la la la...

I've made love in the Kremlin, played Windsor Castle one night
Ozzie Osbourne had me over for tea
I've performed for Kings and Queens and done all kinds of crazy things
'Cause that's the way I wanted life to be

Yet somehow you drew me back again
Though I tried for many years to let you go
Some things you can't control, I guess you're in my soul
And maybe part of me I don't even know

In Havana I spent two hours with Fidel one night
Prince Philip flew me on his private plane
An Arab sheik lent me his yacht, Capri and Monte Carlo
What great fun it was to play their game

I've lived in Key Biscayne, Connecticut and Beverly Hills
In San Francisco and in Malibu
Flew here and there without a care, the world became my love affair
But now I'm coming home to you

I loved that gypsy life out there
'Cause music took me everywhere
But now I'm coming home to you.
La la la...

(Spoken by Daniel Lavoie)

*Liona ma belle orphaline, fille aux cheveux de lin avec ta guitare et tes rêves.
La vie de gitane est dangereuse, alors reste ici dans ce pays qui t'aime*

6. Living My Life Alone

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There once was a boy I was dreaming of
We kissed and rode horses and fell in love
We were only sixteen, but time tore us apart
And he told me I broke his heart

At twenty one years I was young and sweet
Then came many suitors I chanced to meet
One ran a country and offered his hand
But that wasn't the life I'd planned

And who would have thought that by this time
I'd still have no place to call home
Who would have thought that by this time
I'd be living my life alone
After all the romances and courtships and dances
I'd still have no love of my own
No it's not what it seemed, not the way I had dreamed
To be living my life alone

On one sunny day in my carefree life
I found a good man and became his wife
We'd riches and love and great times I recall
Until I chose to leave it all

I've fought for my freedom with teardrops and smiles
I've followed the music, flown so many miles
Yes I was that girl who was loved and adored
And is this now my karmic reward

And who would have thought that by this time
I'd still have no place to call home
Who would have thought that by this time
I'd be living my life alone

After all the romances and courtships and dances
I'd still have no love of my own
No it's not what it seemed, not the way I had dreamed
To be living my life alone

I know many people who feel just like me
'Cause they have no love of their own
They often ask me how could this be
That we're living our life alone

So where's my prince charming that last love of mine
Life gives many options, but so little time
For the one who I'll treasure 'til death do us part
I'm waiting with love in my heart
For the one who I'll treasure 'til death do us part
I'm waiting with love in my heart

7. Thank You For Bringing Me Home

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

Toronto I knew you long ago
Over the years I've watched you grow
I've been away, but now I know
Toronto I've missed you so

Vancouver I lived here once before
Wandered up and down your western shore
And those rainy streets that I'd explore
No one could have loved you more

Maritime provinces I knew you well
Every fishing town and small hotel
Loved you sandy coves and salty smell
And the fog I remember well

Canada oh Canada
Oh how the years have flown
A mari usque ad mare
Thank you for bringing me home

It feels great to be here today
Don't care at all what my critics say
A love affair stole me away
But now I know I'm here to stay

Montreal I knew you long ago
I've missed your "joie de vivre" and your snow
And a certain man who I let go
Montreal I've missed you so

Golden prairie winds keep blowing strong
showing me the place where I belong
Knowing in my heart and in my songs
I have been away too long

Canada I left you years ago
But I had to fly, I had to grow
Now that I've returned one thing I know
I have really missed you so

Chorus...la la la

8. Song of the Arctic

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

Place of pristine beauty born four million years ago
Place of silent majesty where icy waters flow
Crystalline cathedrals where mighty narwhales go
The Arctic hides her secrets we were never meant to know

Land of lost horizons where polar bears roam free
Land of the midnight sunshine where icebergs meet the sea
Vast forbidding continent where frozen north winds blow
The Arctic hides her secrets we were never meant to know
The Arctic hides her secrets we were never meant to know

(chorus)

But our blue planet's icy crown, bejeweled and so far away
Our blue planet's icy crown, is melting more each day
Fragile mother nature, so pure since time began
We've harmed your precious northern lands
Forgive us if you can
Man has touched your arctic crown
Forgive us if you can.

Will snowy owls still be around and feed their young somehow
Will arctic foxes still be found a hundred years from now
Will walruses and seals abound
Will northern lights still glow
The Arctic hides her secrets we were never meant to know

(chorus)

Arctic silence, arctic white
Arctic stillness, arctic night

Nunami inngummaktuq, Nunami inngummaktuq

Place of pristine beauty born four million years ago
Place of untamed majesty where icy waters flow...

9. Aurora Borealis

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

Aurora's light
Ethereal sight
Who paints such beauty
This cold winter night
Aurora's light

Oh great creator
We tremble within
Waste win, waste nimo
Qua yes go na kwa hinn nan
Pipon ta high yaow
Wa wate wa wate, meno wa sin, o was cook
Kishay mandoo

Aurora's light
Ethereal sight
With colours dancing
Transforming the night
Aurora's light

Oh great creator
We tremble within
Waste win, waste nimo
Qua yes go na kwa hinn nan
Pipon ta high yaow
Wa wate wa wate, meno wa sin, o was cook
Kishay mandoo

Higher and higher a lone eagle flies
Lost in the mystic and luminescent skies

(Ah ah ah..)

Crossing the northland a lone wolf replies
He howls at the moon and the magic swirling skies

Aurora's light
Ethereal sight
Who paints such beauty
This cold winter night
Aurora's light

Oh great creator
We tremble within
Waste win, waste nimo
Qua yes go na kwa hinn nan
Pipon ta high yaow
Wa wate wa wate, meno wa sin, o was cook
Kishay mandoo
Kishay mandoo.

10. Little Towns

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I first came to your town thirty years ago
The daylight was fading, it had started to snow
I was cold and I was tired, from traveling all day
But you soon welcomed me, in your warm small town way

Cozy places, smiling faces, I remember so well
There were flowers in my room at the western hotel
And friendly folks with little kids who I happened to meet
When I walked the next morning along your main street

Little towns, little towns you've been good to me
And I hope to repay you some way
Little towns, little towns you've been so good to me
And I hope to return here one day

I'll remember your churches, and your red brick town hall
And this lovely old theatre where I played for you all
Now you know we must part, for tomorrow I must go
But you're still in my heart, and I wanted you to know

Little towns, little towns, you've been good to me
And I hope to repay you some way
Little towns, little towns, you've been so good to me
And I hope to return here one day

Big city life is hard
Believe me I've been there
That's why I love these little towns
Where people care

I've lived the city life
And often felt alone
That's why I love these little towns
That feel like home

Little towns, little towns, you've been good to me
And I hope to repay you this way
Little towns, little towns you've been so good to me
And I hope to return here one day

I I. Do Your Thing

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2011 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

He grew up in a city in northern Spain
An idyllic life 'til the civil war came
Under Franco's gaze there came darker days
And life was never quite the same

He met my mother on a London bus
They married at a registry without any fuss
His Airforce days passed, he'd found love at last
And soon there were three of us

Just do your thing, whatever life should bring
Accept what will be will be
Help your fellow man, do the best you can
My father would say to me

He painted on a rooftop in Mexico
A year long sabbatical, we loved it so
It went along with all those sixties songs
And his philosophy we'd come to know

Just do your thing, whatever life should bring
Accept what will be will be
Help your fellow man, do the best you can
My father would say to me

He lectured on art and creativity
And lived his life with humour and dignity
He made his own plan, he was a renaissance man
His family would all agree

As he lay on his death bed I whispered a prayer
And cut a small piece from his long silken hair
I knew he would be forever part of me
And the live we all had shared

Just do your thing, whatever life should bring
Accept what will be will be
Help your fellow man, do the best you can
My father would say to me

12. Maritimes Remembered

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Barnacled boats rocking side by side
Kissed by the mists and the briny tide
Show me the way to return once more
To that windswept Maritime shore

The fog and the rain I remember there
The lobsters, the ferries, the salty air
Oh I must find a way to return once more
To that windswept Maritime shore

The fishermen's shanties from day of old
Ring of pirates and shipwrecks and spanish gold
Now my music will sing, as it did before
On that windswept Maritime shore

13. A Mes Beaux Sovenirs

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2013 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

A Mes Beaux Souvenirs

Terre si chère qui toujours m'enchanté
Avec ses souvenirs si beaux

14. Home to the Shores of Lake Ontario

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2010 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

I'm coming home to the shores of Lake Ontario
Home to the place I left so many years ago
The world has been my playground, but how was I to know
I left my heart beside the shores of Lake Ontario

I'll see the magic in the maple leaves and beauty in the snow
And watch the monarch butterflies when autumn breezes blow
I've been to seven continents, but how was I to know
I left my heart beside the shores of Lake Ontario

Oh that special feeling I have always known
Oh that happy feeling, I'm coming home
At times in life it seems that dreams make circles like a song
If home is where my heart is, it's home where I belong

I'm coming home to the shores of Lake Ontario
Home to the friends I left so many years ago
I've flown ten times around the world, but how was I to know
I left my heart beside the shores of Lake Ontario

Oh that special feeling I have always known
Oh that happy feeling, I'm coming home
At times in life it seems that dreams make circles like a song
If home is where my heart is, it's home where I belong

I'm coming home to the shores of Lake Ontario
Home to those dear places that I left so long ago
The world has been my playground, but how was I to know
I left my heart beside the shores of Lake Ontario
The world has sure been good to me, but now I really know
My heart is here beside the shores of Lake Ontario

15. Canada My Canada

Music and Lyrics Liona Boyd © 2009 Mid-Continental Music SOCAN

The spirit of our lakes and rivers gently sing to me
The mighty forests add their voice with mystic majesty
I hear the rhythm in the wings of wild geese as they fly
And music in the rocky mountains reaching for the sky

Canada, my Canada
My country proud and free
We'll give the world a song to sing of peace and harmony
Canada, my Canada, land I call my own
Canada, my Canada, you'll always be my home

Our people are a symphony, a multi-cultured voice
From far and wide we fought, we cried, we came and made a choice
Let's sing as one and harmonize our many different themes
And build the greatest nation for our children and our dreams

Canada, my Canada
My country proud and free
We'll give the world a song to sing of peace and harmony
Canada, my Canada, land I call my own
Canada, my Canada, you'll always be my home

From the rocky western shore
To the coast of Labrador
From the Gaspé's rustic charms
To the prairies and the farms
From the coves of Come-By-Chance
To Quebec, La Belle Province
United we shall always be
From north to south, from sea to sea

Canada, my Canada
Mon grand et beau pays
Where native peoples blessed this land of peace and harmony
I'm proud to be Canadian, just look at how we've grown
Canada my Canada
You'll always be my home

Canada, my Canada
My country proud and free
We'll give the world a song to sing of peace and harmony
Canada, my Canada, land I call my own
Canada, my Canada, you'll always be my home.

