



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

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Natalie Merchant
with the Charlotte Symphony
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Natalie Merchant, photo credit Mark Seliger

FEBRUARY 12, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – Distinguished singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant has flourished from her roots with alternative rock group 10,000 Maniacs to an expanded artistic format that embraces full symphony orchestras.

Upon Merchant's symphonic debut, critics from the *Boston Globe* lauded "Merchant has found her medium...[her] woody quaver has never sounded quite so right as it did framed by flutes, a weaving clarinet, and a gentle harp."

As part of her touring project with orchestras the world-over, Natalie Merchant will perform with the Charlotte Symphony for a special concert on Saturday, March 23 at the Belk Theater. Tickets start at

\$44.50 and can be purchased at charlottesymphony.org or by calling the Charlotte Symphony Ticket Office at 704-972-2000.

Merchant was the lead vocalist and writer for 10,000 Maniacs, pioneering through what became known as the alternative rock genre during the eighties and nineties. With socially conscious lyrics written to original, and danceable, compositions, the band released two platinum and four gold records.

During her performance with the Charlotte Symphony Merchant will include classic songs from her days with 10,000 Maniacs. One such song will be “Verdi Cries” from their 1993 record *In My Tribe*, which *Rolling Stone Magazine* attributed as one 100 most important releases of the decade.

Nostalgic numbers from Merchant's early solo career, such as 1995 *Ophelia*'s “Life is Sweet,” will also be sung to the sounds of the symphony.

Lately Merchant tends to draw from classic poems and literary works for inspiration. This new literary-inspired material will be the focus of her performance with the Charlotte Symphony. She will draw primarily from her latest and highly acclaimed recording, *Leave Your Sleep*, which made the top 20 of the Billboard Top 200 list in 2010. Selections from *Leave Your Sleep* showcase the prolific vocalist's acuity for storytelling as she weaves through interpretations of 19th and 20th century works about the experiences and mindsets of childhood. Songs include the dreamy “Land of Nod” contrasted with the more fiery “maggie & millie & molly & may,” adapted from poets Robert Louis Stevenson and E.E. Cummings, respectively.

Upholding her reputation as an artistic visionary, Natalie Merchant diversifies her repertoire by singing her stories to songs composed for orchestras; her concert with the Charlotte Symphony is sure to be a distinctive musical experience.

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