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## Murray McLauchlan ~ June 30, 1948

By Ronald Wolf  
Jun 30, 2010

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A singer, songwriter, pilot, TV host, a member of the Order of Canada, a husband and father. A true multi-talented Canadian.

The year was 1952 and Canadian troops are dispatched to the troubled Koje-Do prisoner of war facility , Elizabeth II becomes Queen of Canada and five-year-old Murray McLauchlan immigrated to Canada with his family. The McLauchlans left Scotland in 1952 for a Canadian life.

At 17, he began playing at coffeehouses in Toronto's Yorkville area and later attended Central Tech as an art student before deciding to become a full-time musician. He is best known in Canada for his Canadian smash hits *The Farmer's Song* and *Down by the Henry Moore*, which was about a sculpture in front of Toronto's city hall, where students met in the 1960s and early 1970s.

McLauchlan has had success in the pop, adult contemporary, country, and folk-music fields, with such songs as *Child's Song*, the Juno Award-winning *The Farmer's Song* and *Hurricane of Change* (1973), *Do You Dream of Being Somebody* (1975), and *Whispering Rain* (1979).

In 1987, Murray appeared on the children's television show, *Sharon, Lois & Bram's Elephant Show* singing his Juno Award winning *The Farmer's Song*. He appeared in the fourth season of *The Elephant Show* on the *Urban Cowboy* episode.

Murray holds a commercial license with instrument rating and endorsements for multi-engine aircraft and seaplanes. In the late 1990s Murray was flying commercial airplanes as a bush pilot in Northern Canada. He starred in a television special called *Floating over Canada*, in which he piloted a Cessna 185 float plane across Canada. This special was broadcast on U.S. public television on PBS, as well as in Canada on CBC.

In 2004 Murray helped form a group known as *Lunch At Allen's* featuring Murray, Marc Jordan, Cindy Church and Ian Thomas. Formed as a result of meeting in Toronto for lunch at Allen's restaurant after Murray's heart bypass surgery. Two CDs have been released as a result of this collaboration: *Lunch at Allens* (2004) and *Catch the Moon* (2007).

He won Juno Awards on several occasions throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1993, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. In 1998, Penguin (Viking Books) released his autobiography *The Ballad of Murray McLauchlan: Getting Out of Here Alive*.

*Gulliver's Taxi* is McLauchlan's 18th album (his 16th for True North) and marks a number of new twists and turns for the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter. Produced by Barney Bentall and Colin Nairne (Mae Moore, Spirit Of The West and Barney Bentall & The Legendary Hearts), this is his first album to be recorded in Vancouver.

While in the studio, Murray was joined by many of the west coast's finest musicians including members of The Odds, Geoffrey Kelly of Spirit Of The West and Billy Cowsill. Tom Wilson of Junkhouse and Blackie & The Rodeo Kings fame joins Murray as well.

McLauchlan's strong songwriting shines on *Gulliver's Taxi* and the record includes several songs written by Murray that have recently been covered by other artists;

*Burned Out Car* appeared on the last Junkhouse record and *No Change In Me* is from John McDermott's current release. In fact, each of the originals is a co-write bringing a new twist to the McLauchlan sound -- contributors include Ron Hynes, John McDermott, Tom Wilson and Billy Cowsill, to name a few.

A testament to Murray's songwriting excellence was the recent presentation of a SOCAN Classics Award for his composition *Whispering Rain*, recognizing the fact that the song received over 100,000 plays on radio, making it one of the most played songs in Canadian history. Now with the release of *Gulliver's Taxi* Murray McLauchlan is back with all of his trademark originality.

McLauchlan is married to Denise Anne Donlon a [Canadian](#) executive, television producer, television host, and program director. Together they share a son Duncan. In 2004, she was made a Member of the [Order of Canada](#), Canadians, even those who come from other countries, can make a difference to the land they love.

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