

## **Allison Lupton Band**

### **SSO Celtic Celebration**

**January 27, 2018**

**Allison Lupton**, an acclaimed singer-songwriter in the Celtic folk tradition, performs her own and traditional songs with sensitivity and grace, adding an extra dimension with her virtuoso flute playing.

She grew up south of Stratford in Zorra Township, where she learned to sing harmony in the Knox Harrington Church choir. She began playing flute in high school at Stratford Central. She completed a Bachelor of Music at the University of Toronto and a Masters of Music at the University of Calgary.

Ms. Lupton has recorded three solo CDs and been featured on CBC Radio's Vinyl Café and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal. She was nominated by the Canadian Folk Music Awards for "Traditional Singer of the Year" and "Vocal Group of the Year" for her recording with The Lucky Sisters. Her song "One More Day" won Folk Music Ontario's Songs From the Heart competition.

**Shane Cook** is a three-time Canadian Open National Champion, a three-time Canadian Grand Masters Champion and the only foreign fiddler to win the U.S. Grand National Championship, a feat he accomplished at the age of 17.

He has been noted by the Canadian Fiddlers' Hall of Fame as one of the "finest fiddlers in the world today." He retired from competitive fiddling in 2006 as one of Canada's most highly awarded fiddlers."

Mr. Cook, who headlined the SSO's Celtic concert in 2011, leads his own group, Shane Cook and the Woodchippers, performs regularly with several ensembles and has toured extensively in Canada, the US, the UK, Ireland, Germany, China and Taiwan. He has five solo recordings. A graduate of Western University, he resides in London, Ontario with his wife and son.

**Craig Werth** is a U.S. based songwriter who has a talent for creating new songs that honour tradition, most often accompanying his baritone voice with guitar, ukulele, octave mandolin, and banjo. Craig's solo CD, "The Spokes Man," received high praise in Sing Out and Canada's Penguin Eggs magazines, and he has achieved high honors on the Folk-DJ charts with several "best album of the year" nominations.

Mr. Werth toured internationally for several years as co-arranger/accompanist for Canada's David Francey, and has a Juno award as co-producer and every-track-artist for Francey's Best Album of the Year — "Right of Passage."

**Kevin Fox** (arrangements) has been dubbed "Canada's most ubiquitous side-man." The Halifax native, a multi-instrumentalist, sought-after arranger/composer and recording artist, has established a growing fan base since the release of his debut album, *Come Alive*, in 2004.

In 2008 Mr. Fox released his second album, *Songs for Cello & Voice*, on which he combines his cello, which he skillfully bows, plucks, taps and loops, with his charismatic voice, to create a unique and captivating musical tapestry of cello-driven folk/pop. His most recent album, *Set Right*, was released in 2011.

He has composed arrangements for Justin Bieber and Steven Page (Barenaked Ladies), recorded with Raine Maida (Our Lady Peace) and Celine Dion, and toured extensively with musicians ranging from Chantal Kreviazuk and Jane Siberry to Tom Cochrane and Olivia Newton-John.

**Tannis Slimmon** was Canadian Folk Music Awards' 2008 Contemporary Vocalist of the Year. She has performed and recorded with Allison Lupton in The Lucky Sisters and also performs with Lewis Melville, Boreal and The Ondine Chorus. In addition to her three solo albums, she has appeared on albums by Willie P. Bennett, Valdy, David Francey, Rheostatics and many others.

**Jude Vadala** was a member of the harmony trio the Bird Sisters and has released two solo albums. She has sung harmonies on more than 50 musical projects with artists such as Suzie Vinnick, Lynn Miles and James Gordon. She presents songwriting and vocal workshops and is one of the co-founders of Guelph's Hillside Festival.