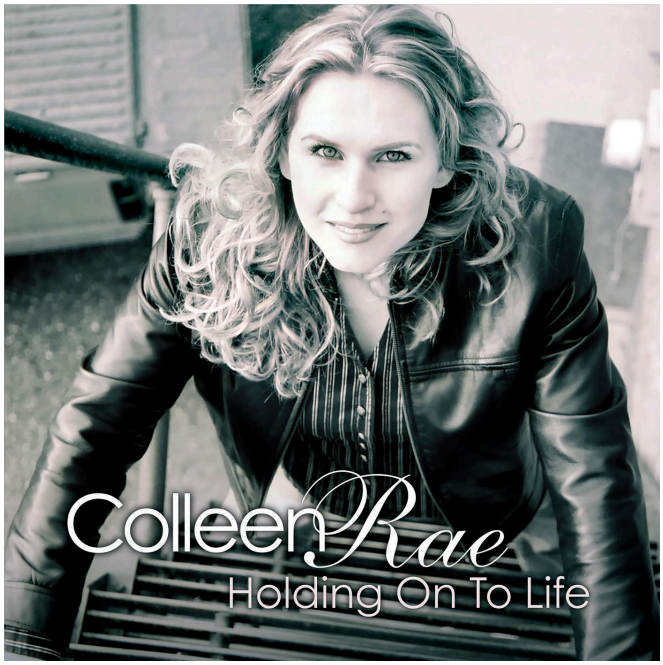
Echoes Across Continents – Performer Biographies

Colleen Rae

Cultural Tradition: Canadian Country Music



Biography:

Colleen Rae is an Edmonton-based, award-winning country singer-songwriter recognized as an “Artist to Watch.” Known for emotionally expressive and empowering original music, she has written with Wood Newton, Rob Heath, Duane Steele, and Byron Hill. Her song *Quickest Heart in Town*, co-written with William Wallace, was a semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition. Her recordings also include *For Rich or for Poor* and *Where Did I Go*, which was featured in a Brimstone Pictures film. Her music combines personal storytelling with the warmth and directness of contemporary Canadian country.

Alesha Bondy & Brendon Bondy (The Rural Routes)

Cultural Tradition: Canadian Country / Maritime & Indigenous Traditions



Biography:

The Rural Routes are an award-winning Canadian country duo formed by singer-songwriters Alesha and Brendon Bondy. Their name reflects the Maritime and Indigenous prairie traditions that shape their life and music. With more than three-quarters of a million combined streams, the duo has built a strong independent following. Their single *Heartbreak Story* became a #1 Canadian charting SiriusXM exclusive, while *Whiskey Lie* reached the Top 100 at Canadian country radio, #6 on the Indigenous Music Countdown, and the Top 5 on SiriusXM's Top of the Country. Their work brings together contemporary country songwriting and distinctive cultural roots.

Andrea Pinna

Cultural Tradition: Italian Classical & Operatic Music



Biography:

Andrea Pinna is an Italian-born vocalist who has made Edmonton his home for the past twelve years. Growing up with an appreciation for theatre, music, and opera, he brings that cultural background to his work as a classical singer. He has performed as a chorus member with Edmonton Opera and has also gained experience as a classical soloist. His performances reflect a strong connection to the Italian vocal tradition and a commitment to sharing classical music with local audiences.

Wei Zhang (Veronica)

Cultural Tradition: Chinese Folk & Classical Music



Biography:

Wei Zhang (Veronica) is a professionally trained soprano with years of stage performance and teaching experience. Known for her bright, agile, and expressive voice, she performs across classical, popular, and traditional repertoire. She has particular expertise in Chinese traditional vocal techniques, bringing clarity, color, and cultural character to her performances. Her musical versatility allows her to move comfortably between different styles while maintaining a strong connection to Chinese folk and classical traditions.

Gaby Valadez

Cultural Tradition: Mexican Mariachi & Popular Music



Biography:
Gaby Valadez is a Mexican singer and entertainer from Guadalajara, Jalisco, now based in Edmonton. Raised in a family of mariachi musicians—including her father, Samuel Valadez, as well as uncles and cousins—she brings more than 25 years of professional performance experience to the stage. Her career in Guadalajara included television singing contests and performances with versatile music and rock bands, and she also incorporates comedy and vocal imitation into her work. In Alberta, she has appeared at the Edmonton Heritage Festival, Edmonton Carnaval, Mexifest, and Calgary's Fiestaval, and she is regularly invited to local restaurants and private events to celebrate and share Mexican musical traditions.

Enock Attey

Cultural Tradition: African Ghanaian Music

.

Biography:

Enoch Attey is the musical director, guitarist, engineer and vocalist for Melafrique. Born in Ivory Coast and raised in Ghanaian tradition, he picked up the guitar at 17 and has played everything from rock and jazz to reggae and gospel. A Juno-nominated producer, he has shaped Edmonton’s music scene for more than a decade, working with artists like K-Riz, Arlo Maverick and Titilope. His sound marries soul and gospel, and light shines through every note.