

MAUREEN MCGOVERN

JAZZ BIO

MAUREEN MCGOVERN, whose career spans 40 years, includes recordings, concerts, theater, film, television, radio and songwriting. She has earned the reputation for being one of America's most respected artists with a voice that defies categorization. From a jazzy, warm register, Maureen glides easily into crystalline coloratura. It is no wonder she has been called "*The Stradivarius Voice.*"

To quote Mel Tormé: "Maureen McGovern is, quite simply, the most glorious singer to come down the pike in several months of Sundays. Possessed of one of the finest vocal instruments in the world, a range that hasn't been matched since Yma Sumac stunned us all decades ago, and the ability to softly breathe into a lyric or 'read' the words in a clear, strong voice, perfectly in tune; she is positively daunting to the parade of soubrettes who wish they could sing like Maureen McGovern. Add the fact that she is the loveliest of them all in form and face, and it is easy to understand why she is a world-class performer."

Maureen has performed in extensive cross-country tours with jazz greats Mel Tormé, Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and a 36-city tour with John Pizzarelli. She guest starred with Mel Tormé and Buddy Rich (in his last public performance) on **Sentimental Swing: A Tribute to the Music of Tommy Dorsey**. *Variety* said of her Le Jazz Au Bar performance, "McGovern has the most remarkable range and crisply tailored diction in town; and she offers a lesson in dynamics from her whispery take on "Nice 'n' Easy" to the sweaty seductiveness of "Fever." McGovern's wide-ranging scat singing and her sense of jazz phrasing is just another facet of her skillful vocal talents."

To quote legendary jazz artist Roger Kellaway, "Maureen McGovern personifies the mind and heart in perfect balance, all the technical skills to tease the puzzle-makers, all the warmth to soothe your heart and soul."

Maureen has recorded with jazz greats Gary Burton, Dori Caymmi, Chick Corea,

Terry Trotter, Mike Renzi and jazz bassist and songwriter, Jay Leonhart. Ms. McGovern was featured on Disney's Pulse, the IAJE live jazz concert recording where she stopped the show with her stratospheric, pyrotechnical version of "**I'm Late!**" Maureen appeared with Dame Cleo Laine, John Dankworth and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra for the Mel Tormé Tribute at The Hollywood Bowl. Quoting Don Heckman of The LA Times: "...McGovern was up to the task singing with astonishing musical facility. Her scatting on "**I'm Late**" and "**Ding Dong the Witch Is Dead**" was astounding. And her a cappella rendering of "**Skylark**" (a tune some singers have difficulty delivering in tune even with accompaniment) was both a musical and a storytelling tour de force. Tormé would have loved every minute of her presentation."

Highlights from her recording library include: **Out Of This World: McGovern Sings Arlen**, Maureen's Centennial Celebration tribute to the music of the great Harold Arlen, and **The Music Never Ends: The Lyrics of Alan and Marilyn Bergman**. Both CDs feature new bonus cuts produced and recorded by Maureen. Her beloved Bergman tribute CD showcases the best of the Bergmans with music by Michel Legrand, Roger Kellaway, Dave Grusin, Johnny Mandel, Dori Caymmi and Ivan Lins among others. Further highlights include: **Naughty Baby: McGovern Sings Gershwin**, a live, in-studio concert and her Grammy nominated **The Pleasure Of His Company** with Emmy winning, Grammy nominated pianist Mike Renzi. Maureen is featured singing a Brazilian version "**This Is Just The Day**" on the Grammy winning CD/DVD, "Best Musical Recording for Children," **Songs from the Neighborhood: The Music of Mister Rogers**.

Maureen is an Artist Spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association and is a National Board Member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She founded "The Works of Heart" Foundation for Music and Healing which served to address the inspirational and emotional needs of patients and caregivers.

Ira Gitler in London Jazz Express said, "...if I put a name on what she does, in whichever of the many categories where she may be found, I'd have to call her 'sensational'... incredibly versatile, tremendously talented and vastly entertaining."

Stephen Holden in The New York Times wrote: "Maureen McGovern is a singer who moves comfortably from jazz to soaring movie themes and from classical pop standards to operetta... a coloratura jazz singer at ease in any medium."