

MAUREEN MCGOVERN

THEATER BIO

MAUREEN MCGOVERN, whose career spans 40 years, includes recordings, concerts, theater, film, television, radio and songwriting, all with a voice that defies categorization. It is no wonder she has been called "*The Stradivarius Voice*."

Her PS Classics CD, "**A Long and Winding Road**" has been praised by *The New York Times* as "...a captivating musical scrapbook from the 1960s to the early 70s. Ms. McGovern's vocal technique is second to none."

In 2005, Ms. McGovern returned to the Broadway stage, originating her Drama Desk nominated role of 'Marmee' in *Little Women, The Musical* and reprised her role in the 32 city 1st National Tour of *Little Women, The Musical*. Maureen made her Broadway debut as 'Mabel' in the *Pirates of Penzance*, starred as 'Luisa Contini' with the late Raul Julia in *Nine* and as 'Polly Peachum' in *3 Penny Opera* with Sting. Off Broadway, Maureen originated the role of 'Mary' in *Brownstone* and starred as 'Mrs. Anna' in the recent Broadway revival National Tour of *The King and I*.

Most recently, Maureen performed *Carry It On*, her one-woman show (formerly: *A Long and Winding Road*), at Geva Theatre in Rochester, NY. *A Long and Winding Road* premiered at Arena Stage in DC and the Huntington Theatre in Boston for which she received the IRNE Award for "Best Solo Performance." Regionally, she has performed in the West Coast premiere of William Finn's *Elegies* at the Canon Theatre. Maureen starred as 'Countess Aurelia' in the historic revival of Jerry Herman's musical *Dear World* (an adaptation of *The Madwoman of Chailot*) and as 'Madame Emery' in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, both at the Sundance Institute Theatre. In 2001, she made her dramatic debut as 'Eleanor of Aquitaine' in *The Lion In Winter* and originated the role of 'Eleanor Bridges' in the world premiere of *Letters from 'Nam* in Boston. She starred as "Mary Turner' in *Of Thee I Sing* for the Reprise Series at UCLA's Freud Playhouse

and also at the Kennedy Center and Brooklyn Academy of Music in tandem with *Let 'Em Eat Cake*. She reprised her role of 'Eleanor Bridges' in *One Red Flower* (formerly *Letters from 'Nam*) in a moving Los Angeles benefit performance for New Directions, an organization whose mission is to empower veterans and facilitate their successful returns to families and society.

She has also starred regionally in *The Sound of Music*, *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls* (playing both 'Sarah' and 'Adelaide') and *I Do, I Do*. Maureen's children's musical, *The Bengal Tiger's Ball*, had its Central Florida premiere in 1999, co-sponsored by Disney. She wrote the captivating music, co-created and starred in the production.

Feature films include Maureen's roles as the 'Nightclub Singer' in *The Towering Inferno* and 'Sr. Angelina,' the guitar strumming nun in the comedy classic *Airplane!* and *Airplane II: The Sequel*, which was a fitting and hilarious finale to her early "Disaster Theme Queen" decade. Ms. McGovern can also be heard as the voice of 'Rachel' in the DreamWorks animated video/DVD *Joseph: King of Dreams* with Ben Affleck. Her television roles include *One Life To Live*, *The Tracey Ullman Show*, *Pacific Blue*, *Duckman* and *Beyond Belief*, and on radio, she spent three seasons as a frequent special guest on Garrison Keillor's "**American Radio Company of the Air.**"

Grammy nominated for "Best New Artist" (1973) and "Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance" (1998), she is also a guest artist on the Grammy Award winning CD/DVD *Songs from the Neighborhood: The Music of Mister Rogers* ("Best Musical Recording for Children.") She won the coveted Tokyo Music Festival Grand Prize Award (1975) for her performance of Paul Williams' "**Even Better than I Know Myself.**"

Maureen's recording career began with the Oscar winning International Gold Records "**The Morning After**" (Billboard #1) and "**We May Never Love Like This Again**" from the classic disaster films, *The Poseidon Adventure* and *The Towering Inferno*. She also introduced the Oscar nominated songs "**Wherever Love Takes Me**" in the film, *Gold* and "**Nice to be Around**" from *Cinderella Liberty* and hit recordings "**Can You Read My Mind?**" from the motion picture, *Superman* and

"Different Worlds" (Billboard Top 20 hit and #1 AC hit) from the ABC TV series, **Angie**. Other critically acclaimed recordings include songwriter tributes to George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Richard Rodgers, Marilyn and Alan Bergman and her solo piano/voice albums, **"Another Woman In Love"** and **"The Pleasure of His Company"** with Emmy winning, Grammy nominated jazz pianist, Mike Renzi.

Maureen has been honored by *Irish Magazine* as one of the Top 100 Irish Americans, received the "Songs From The Heart Award" from NARAS and the American Music Therapy Association, the "CUNY (City University of New York) Lifetime Achievement Award" for making a remarkable difference in the lives of individuals and students with disabilities, the "AFTRA AMEE Lifetime Sound Recording Award," the "Nightlife Legend Award" (NYC), the "MAC Lifetime Achievement Award," the "Imagination Award" from Imagination Stage for her work with children, the arts and philanthropy, the "Festival of Children's Foundation's Founder's Award" for her dedication to broadening and enriching the lives of children and has received a Doctorate of Music (Hon) from Youngstown State University.

McGovern founded "The Works of Heart" Foundation for Music and Healing which served to address the inspirational and emotional needs of patients and caregivers.

She serves on the National Board of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and is Chairperson of the annual Shamrocks Against Dystrophy Campaign. For over 30 consecutive years, Maureen has performed on the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon, including serving as co-host in New York City for six years. Maureen supports music therapy and has been an Artist Spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association since 2001.