

Media release

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Yukon singer-songwriter Kim Beggs to compete in CBC's Song Quest

Award-winning Yukon singer-songwriter Kim Beggs has been named one of five Yukon artists and one of a total of 65 Canadian artists who will compete for one of 13 CBC Radio songwriting commissions. The CBC's Song Quest competition sees five artists from each province and territory vying for the opportunity to write a song about a place in their region. Both the artist and the place will be voted on by the public. Artists are urged to rally their fans to vote for them.

Beggs admits she's a little uneasy competing against fellow artists from the Yukon, where the music community is incredibly tight-knit and artists are very supportive of one another. However, she adds that she is extremely grateful for the CBC's support of Canadian songwriters through the Song Quest project.

Beggs is already no stranger to writing about the Yukon. Her song "Shipyard Song," about the destruction of the Whitehorse shipyards, was featured in the CBC documentary *Shipyard's Lament*, and all of her music is coloured with a melancholy that is inspired by her life in the territory. One of six children raised by a mining engineer father and a nurse mother, Beggs comes from a family with a long history in Canada's extreme landscapes. Her parents followed the miners' trail from Sudbury to the Yukon (where her older brother was born), to Abitibi, Quebec (where Kim was born), to the true north of Ontario, then Toronto and Montreal. Beggs moved to the Yukon in 1991, guided by her family's roots and stories of the Yukon from before she was born. One there, she worked with youth and elderly people for almost two years before settling into being a hard-working carpenter contractor (eventually earning her Journeyman papers by 2000). At this point, she started writing songs and performing them for an audience, away from the nurturing campfires she had shared with her many musical friends.

Beggs' music has earned her accolades from all parts of Canada and beyond. Her sophomore album, *Wanderer's Paeon*, was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award for Outstanding Roots Recording and a Canadian Folk Music Award for New/Emerging Artist of the Year. This spring, her song "Lips Stained Red with Wine" was a third place finisher in the International Songwriting Competition's Americana category. Meanwhile, Beggs' music has consistently topped the Canadian airplay charts at US folk radio, and it generated a considerable response from listeners of BBC Radio 2's Bob Harris Country, prompting Harris to invite Beggs on the program while she was touring the UK. What's more, Beggs' music has been featured in several CBC television shows and Yukon films.

Beggs just recently wrapped up a tour of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes and is now back in the Yukon working on album number three.