

Rebecca Hennessy

Trumpeter. Vocalist. Composer. Bandleader

Biography

Rebecca Hennessy is an award winning Canadian trumpeter, vocalist, composer and bandleader who has been working professionally since 2006. As a leader and co-leader, Rebecca has released eight albums to date and has toured Mexico, Panama, Sri Lanka, Europe, USA and extensively in Canada. She has also performed and recorded with internationally recognized artists including Adele, Kevin Breit, Ron Sexsmith, Andy Kim, Owen Pallett, Broken Social Scene, Feist, Ab Baars and Ken Vandermark.

Rebecca was a recipient of the 2018 Emerging Jazz Artist Award by the Toronto Arts Foundation. In July 2016, Rebecca Hennessy's FOG Brass Band was nominated for both the Montreal Jazz Festival's Grand Prix de Jazz and the Galaxie Rising Star Award at the Halifax Jazz Festival. Immediately following this tour, FOG recorded their first full-length album, *Two Calls*, funded by the Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts. This album entitled, *Two Calls, (4.5/5 - All About Jazz)* was included in various top 10 jazz releases of 2017 including the Ottawa Citizen's best Canadian jazz albums of 2018.

Her most recent album, *All The Little Things You Do*, is a beautifully written, performed and produced album that deals with love, grief and mental health. Being released between the death of her mother and the birth of her first child, this album is Rebecca's debut album as a singer-songwriter, merging all the musical elements of her diverse musical career. Her band on this album includes world acclaimed and celebrated creative musical voices including guitarist Kevin Breit (*Sister's Euclid*, *Johnny Goldtooth*, *Norah Jones*), pianist Tania Gill (*Happiness Project*, *Tania Gill Quartet*), bassist Michael Herring (*Peripheral Vision*, *Bona Fide Scoundrels*) and drummer Dave Clark (*Rheostatics*, *Gord Downie*).

Rebecca co-leads *Way North*, which features herself on trumpet, Petr Cancura on tenor saxophone, Michael Herring on bass and Richie Barshay on drums. Born out of the joy of playing together, these four musicians use jazz and improvisation to explore folk and world music. In 2016, *Way North* was invited to perform and teach workshops at Danilo Perez's Jazz Festival in Panama. While in Panama, they also made a trip to the Mamoni Nature Preserve where they performed and collaborated as part of the NGO Earth Train's Geovercity campaign.

In 2013/14, Rebecca was awarded an Ontario Arts Council grant to live and study in New York City where she studied with two world-class trumpeters and composers: Ralph Alessi and John McNeil. In 2007, Rebecca attended the International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music lead by internationally renowned trumpeter and composer, Dave Douglas, with a scholarship from the Ken Page Memorial Fund.

Rebecca is the musical director for Massey Hall's annual Women's Blues Revue. She holds the second trumpet chair at Shaw Festival Theatre Orchestra and played lead trumpet for the North American Premiere of *Strictly Ballroom* at Princess of Wales Theatre. She can also be heard performing with Kevin Breit, Rita Chiarelli and Sweet Loretta, Sue Foley, The Woodshed Orchestra, DRUMHAND and Viva Mexico Mariachi.

Rebecca has jazz performance degrees from University of Toronto and Vancouver Island University.

Selected Performances

March 5th, 2020 Philippe B at Heliconian Club, Toronto

June 25th, 2019 = Jazz Orchestra + Christine Jensen at the National Arts Centre

April 21, 2019 Makeshift Island with Kevin Breit at the Tranzac, Toronto

April 20th, 2019 Johnny Goldtooth (Kevin Breit) and His Immediate Family, The Supermarket, Toronto

January 14-21st, 2019 *Way North Fearless and Kind* CD Release Tour

December 8th, 2018 Johnny Goldtooth (Kevin Breit) and His Immediate Family, The Supermarket, Toronto
 November 16th, 2018 Women's Blues Revue, Roy Thomson Hall, Toronto
 November 5-12th, 2018 Way North Fearless and Kind CD Release Tour
 Oct 27th, 2018 Kellylee Evans Koerner Hall, Toronto
 September 7, 2018 Rebecca Hennessy Trio featuring Kevin Breit, Harbourfront Stage in the Round, Toronto
 July 15, 2018 Makeshift Island with Kevin Breit at the Tranzac, Toronto
 March 18, 2018 Makeshift Island with Kevin Breit at the Tranzac, Toronto
 March 13, 2018 Generation NOW at National Arts Centre, Ottawa
 November 18th, 2017 Women's Blues Revue at Massey Hall
 September 16th, 2017 FOG at the Guelph Jazz Festival
 August 20th, 2017 FOG at the Markham Jazz Festival
 July 6th, 2017 Sienna Dahlen at the Montreal Jazz Festival
 June 29th, 2017 FOG at the Toronto Jazz Festival
 May 4-5th, 2017 When You Were Gone featuring the music of Rebecca Hennessy and the words of Thomas King at Silence, Guelph April-June, 2017
 February 18-27, 2017 WAY NORTH Canadian Tour
 October 3, 4, 6, 7, 2016 ADELE at the Air Canada Centre, Toronto
 July 16th, 2016 FOG at the Halifax Jazz Festival, Main Stage
 July 3rd, 2016 FOG at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Club De Jazz
 July 2nd, 2016 FOG at the Ottawa Jazz Festival, Confederation Park Main Stage

Education

September, 2001-April, 2003 Jazz Diploma from Malaspina University-College
 September, 2003-June, 2006 Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance from University of Toronto
 Private study with Kevin Turcotte 2003-2004
 Private study with Chase Sanborn 2005-2006
 May 20-June 10, 2007 Participated in Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, Banff, Alberta
 Private Study with Laurie Frink 2009-2013
 Private Study with Ralph Alessi 2009-2014
 Private Study with John Mcneil 2013-2014

Selected Discography as performer/*and composer

*All The Little Things You Do (2020), Rebecca Hennessy (Vocals & Trumpet)**
*Getaway (2019), Abigail Lapell**
*Fearless and Kind (2018), Way North**
*The Leonard Cohen Sweet, Friendly Rich and The Woodshed Orchestra (2018)**
*Two Calls(2017), Rebecca Hennessy's FOG Brass Band**
The Last Rider(2017), Ron Sexsmith
*Cast Toward Shore EP(2015), FOG**
Brass Bandit(2015), Woodshed Orchestra
Guest Book(2015), Woodshed Orchestra
*Kings County(2015), Way North**
Niagara(2014), John Southworth
*Of The Waves(2012), Hobson's Choice**
Butcher Sings Baker(2013), Shannon Butcher
Buzz(2013), Woodshed Orchestra
Love and Affection(2011), Woodshed Orchestra
Time, Shakura S'aida
*Backseat Heroine(2012), Emma-Lee**
Awakening featuring Quinsin Nachoff, U of T 10 o'clock Jazz Orchestra

Illuminations featuring Mike Murley, Sarah Jerrom
Treelines(2007), Hobson's Choice*
The Farm EP(2009), Hobson's Choice *
Little Tragedies(2007), Angie Nussey*

Select Compositions from 2004-present:

It's A Beautiful Day To Say Goodbye (2019)
 Deeper Than The Dark Blue Sea (2018)
 Oh Montreal (The Leonard Cohen Sweet 2018)
 New Way Through (2018)
 Keep The Light Bright (2018)
 Magnolia (2018)
 Eclipse (2017)
 Dig Up The Stories (2017)
 Why are you so sad booker little? (FOG, Two calls 2017)
 Horn Lake 2016, (FOG, Two calls 2017)
 Inertia 2014, (FOG ep 2015)
 Just 15 More Minutes 2014 (FOG ep 2015)
 Cast Toward Shore 2014 (FOG ep 2015)
 Calypso-You Make Me Feel So Good 2014 (Kings County 2014)
 Hydes Bay by Night (2014)
 Lagoon 2014 (FOG ep 2015, Two Calls 2017 and Fearless and Kind 2018)
 Kings County Sheriff 2014 (Kings County 2014)
 Cats are Jerks (2014)
 I Bought This Boquet (2014)
 There's One Thing 2013 (Sweet Pea EP)
 Quick, Don't Panic 2012)
 Restored 2010(of the waves 2012)
 Walrus 2007(of the waves 2012)
 Home At Last 2007(*Treelines* 2007) *Received CBC radio air play*
 Our Time 2007(*Treelines* 2007)
 Journey 2004(live recording 2004)

Awards

Emerging Jazz Artist Award 2018 presented by the Toronto Arts Foundation
Nominated for the Grand Prix du Jazz at the 2016 International Montreal Jazz Festival
Nominated for the Galaxie Rising Star Award at the 2016 Halifax Jazz Festival
Ontario Arts Council Recording Grant for FOG brass band ~ 2016
Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant to perform at the Halifax Jazz Festival ~ 2016
Canada Council for the Arts Recording Grant for FOG brass band ~ 2015
OAC Chalmers Professional Development Grant to live, study, practice and compose music in NYC ~ 2013
Ontario Arts Council Popular Music Grant for recording Hobson's Choice's newest full length recording "Of The Waves" ~ 2011
Ken Page Memorial Trust Scholarship for Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music ~ 2007
Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant for Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music ~2007

Teaching

2015-present Seneca College Music Theory/Piano Instructor IPS & IMP Music programs
 2006-present private trumpet studio