



First Light A new CD from Canadian singer/songwriter **Monica Schroeder**

"**First Light**" is the fourth album from Toronto singer-songwriter Monica Schroeder. After twice being nominated for "Outstanding Pop Recording" at the *Western Canadian Music Awards*, Monica wanted to try something different and has taken hymns and worship songs that mean something in her life and made them her own.

In her original compositions, Monica moves through subjects as varied as the pain of loss and the discomfort of heartache, with a subtlety and openness that invites the listener to follow. In this new CD, Monica chose songs that move past heartache and into a reflection of God's presence in her life. This is music that doesn't preach or cajole, but encourages us to admit our struggles, our hopes and our desire for more of God in our lives and takes the listener through the waiting and the journey.

Playing this album is a little like stumbling into a dusty roadside chapel.

"**First Light**" includes appearances from some of Toronto's finest musicians including Tim Bovacanti (*Ron Sexsmith*), Timothy Abraham and James McKie. In addition to the simplicity of its production, what sets this album apart from her previous work is its theme: This is an album about faith. Or perhaps it would be

just as accurate to say it is an album about wrestling with faith. Many of these songs are traditional spiritual fare, but Monica does more than simply sing them. She makes them her own, conveying through their ageless words her own hopes and sorrows and fears. And when Monica sings songs of comfort, it is with keen awareness of how fragile is the thing we call joy.



Since her first independent recording, Monica has shared the stage with performers such as Jane Siberry, Gordon Lightfoot and the Cowboy Junkies. She has also been featured nationally in magazines like *Billboard* and *Maclean's* and has been played on radio stations across North America, including the CBC and NPR.

Please visit Monica's website for info on upcoming shows and purchasing her CDs. www.monicaschroeder.com

"Featuring one of the most spellbinding voices to grace Canadian music ... her acclaimed, independently released debut, 'The Expectation of Home', is a true gem."

– **Billboard Magazine**

"Monica Schroeder's got one of those warm, rich voices that make you stop doing whatever you're doing and pay attention to the physical act of the voice wrapping around your ears. It's all there – vibe, song and voice. But especially voice."

– **IndieCrit.com**