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Cari Burdett / *Don't Forget*
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On her new album *Don't Forget*, Canadian singer, songwriter, educator and community builder Cari Burdett explores friendship, grief, belonging, healing, nature and love on seven songs that showcase her captivating voice and ambitious musical vision.

Don't Forget marks 10 years since Burdett's previous album *Magnolia*, that paid tribute to Joni Mitchell, Nina Simone, Edith Piaf and other legendary female artists. Although it was nominated for Best World Album at the Western Canadian Music Awards in 2016, Cari was unable to follow it up in a timely manner due to an unexpected vocal injury. What was intended to be a short pause thus became nearly seven years of healing, re-connecting with nature, rites of passage, and rediscovering her relationship to voice, identity, and belonging.

Cari has channelled all of that into *Don't Forget*, the first collection of self-penned material she has ever recorded, developed through artist residencies at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and during a retreat to the French Pyrenees. Looking back, Burdett now sees the songs as having anticipated the journey that followed. Written before the vocal injury, they became companions and teachers during the years that followed, guiding her toward a deeper understanding of her own resiliency.

"*Don't Forget* is more than my first album of original songs," Cari says. "It is the story of finding my way back to myself. These songs carried messages that I didn't fully understand when I wrote them. Years later, I found myself living them. They reminded me that love is everywhere, in the trees, in the air, in friendship, in grief, and in the people who carry us through difficult times."

Don't Forget was produced by Robbie Grunwald (Donovan Woods, Jill Barber) and recorded between Union Sound in Toronto and Track and Trestle Studio in British Columbia's Cowichan Valley. Musicians featured on the album include Dean Drouillard (guitar), Brian Kobayakawa (bass), Joshua Van Tassel (drums), Adrian Dolan (violin, viola, and string arrangements), Amy Laing (cello), as well as Grunwald on keyboards.

Their contributions, combined with Burdett's fully recovered voice, result in pure magic on *Don't Forget*'s title track, with its slow-burning groove evoking classic Portishead, as well as the second single "Where Is Love," a gorgeous slice of pop-soul that would surely make Carole King smile. But throughout, Cari's take on adult contemporary songcraft offers an intoxicating mix of styles that in the end is entirely her own.

A graduate of McGill University and the Royal Academy of Music in London, Cari Burdett has spent more than three decades creating music and bringing people together through performance, choir leadership, vocal improvisation, mentorship, and nature-based education. As founder of Lila Music & Nature Centre in the Cowichan Valley, she works with children, youth, families, Elders, and community members through music and nature connection programs. Her work regularly includes collaboration with Quw'utsun Elders, Coast Salish artists, and community partners, creating intergenerational arts experiences rooted in relationship, reciprocity, and respect.