

# MAUREEN MCGOVERN

## PLAYBILL/PROGRAM BIO

Maureen McGovern's career spans over 37 years, including recordings, concerts, theater, film, television, radio and songwriting, all with a voice that defies categorization.

Her current 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" and was voted by Playbill.com and TalkinBroadway.com among the "Best of 2008 Performances" and "Top 10 Vocal Recordings of 2008."

Grammy nominated for "Best New Artist" (1973) and "Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance" (1998), she received a Grammy Award for "Best Musical Recording for Children" (2005) for her participation in the CD/DVD **Songs from the Neighborhood: The Music of Mister Rogers**. She also 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 song **"Wherever Lover Takes Me"** in the film, **Gold**. Other hit recordings include, **"Can You Read My Mind?"** from the motion picture, **Superman** and **"Different Worlds"** (Billboard Top 20 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 jazz pianist, Mike Renzi.

In 2005, Ms. McGovern returned to the Broadway stage, originating her Drama Desk nominated role of 'Marmee' in **Little Women, The Musical** and reprised that 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' in **Nine** with the late Raul Julia, and as 'Polly Peachum' in **3 Penny Opera** with Sting. Off-Broadway, Maureen originated the role of 'Mary' in **Brownstone**. Critics and audiences alike were delighted with her definitive portrayal of 'Mrs. Anna' in the recent Broadway National Tour of **The King and I**.>

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 Chaillot**) 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**. Most recently, 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 return to families and society.

Maureen has also starred in Regional productions of **The Sound of Music**, **South Pacific**, **Guys & Dolls** (playing both 'Sarah' and 'Adelaide'), and **I Do, I Do**. Her 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.**"

Maureen has recently 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 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.

Ms. McGovern is the President of the Maureen McGovern "Works of Heart" Foundation for Music and Healing, founded to address the emotional and inspirational needs of patients and caregivers. Its premier recordings include "**Help Is On The Way**" (in partnership with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights

AIDS) and **Works of Heart: Songs of Hope**, featuring a 30th anniversary recording of "**The Morning After.**"

She serves on the National Board of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and is Chairperson of the annual Shamrocks Against Dystrophy Campaign. Since 1980, she has performed yearly on the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon, also 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.

For the most current information, please go to:

[www.maureenmcgovern.com](http://www.maureenmcgovern.com)

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