

Homecoming concert for area soprano

*Elizabeth
McDonald to be
accompanied by
pianist Cowden*

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By Sarah MacWhirter

The Intelligencer

It's a homecoming music lovers here have been eagerly anticipating.

Area soprano Elizabeth McDonald will sing Saturday at the Centennial Free Methodist Church, 135 Avondale Road in Belleville, at 7:30 p.m. An illness forced the cancellation of a performance scheduled last May at Albert College.

From her home in Rochester, where she studies at the Eastman School of Music, McDonald is clearly excited about playing for the hometown crowd.

"It's great to sing for people that always want to hear you sing. I'm coming home to do a recital because I have so many people asking me where I'm singing next," McDonald said.

"It makes sense to come home and sing for the pleasure of really performing. Every time you get on stage it's something new, and every audience teaches you something new," she added.

For Saturday's performance, McDonald assembled a mainly classical repertoire with a wide emotional range. She will perform works by Henri Duparc, Franz Schubert, Canadian composer Claude Vivier, Benjamin Britten, and operatic arias and light-hearted musical theatre pieces as well.

"Especially as a Canadian studying in the United States, it's really important to know what your own heritage is and it's important to share that with people you're singing for, especially when you go back home. Classical music really is a European tradition, until you get to the 20th cen-



Elizabeth McDonald

tury."

Accompanying her throughout is pianist Tracy Cowden, a Michigan native also at Eastman studying for her Doctorate.

The musical mix of emotion, from solemn and moody to upbeat and beautiful, will be topped with a traditional cabaret song by Britten.

McDonald began her musical studies here with voice teacher Phyllis Antognini in Picton, and with piano teachers Marie Rose and Lorraine Pregent in Trenton.

She has received numerous awards and has already performed in a number of operatic roles throughout Canada and in New York State.

Now, McDonald is a candidate for the Masters of Music in Performance and Literature program at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester.

The Saturday performance is free, though donations towards McDonald's cost of education at Eastman will be gratefully accepted.

Financial assistance provided by Wayne Cooper of RBC Dominion Securities in Belleville made the recital possible.