



Excerpt from:

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UP CLOSE and PERSONAL with MAREE McRAE

*"The biggest human temptation is to settle for too little."*

Maree McRae's music is very personal. A hit singer-songwriter whose debut album made its mark on Gavin's National Top 40 Americana chart in December, McRae knows and understands the pleasures and pains of breaking a new project out of the mainstream.

A multi-talented perfectionist who plays the guitar, bass, mandolin and keyboards, McRae began her musical career at the callow age of 16, singing in a California band with twenty-something struggling musicians. She later moved to Colorado, joining "Cadillac Ranch", one of the Rocky Mountain region's premier country pop groups. After years fronting this band, she took to the studio to record her own material, one of which was "Every Minute", which was the takeoff for the Colin Raye, #1 single, "Every Second."

From the Disneyland Hotel on the west coast to mayoral affairs in the Midwest, McRae honed her performing and writing craft, and her debut album "I Won't Settle For Less" began to gain her critical acclaim.

"It's all about getting the songs out there, and that's what's important to me. People come and request my stuff, instead of in the early years, having to play everyone else's tunes. This is my first project, and it's doing great, I am happy with it."

### GETTING THE MESSAGES ACROSS

"I like to write with universal appeal. Although I like a lot of commercial music, I just don't like the messages. I don't enjoy victim kind of songs," she explains.

McRae prefers subjects like compassion and overcoming obstacles and not settling for less. "There is definitely a theme of love on my album, but these are not common love tunes," she notes. "If I talk about pain, I talk about getting up and crossing the other side of the fence. I talk about recovery, strength and seeing the light-breaking out of the 'poor me' syndrome. Pain is going to happen and the reason I feel most fortunate is that by being a singer-songwriter, every time that I perform,

whether it is for 2 people or 10,000, there is someone listening. Someone that maybe in that moment I can make feel a little better for the time being. I feel really lucky to be able to communicate that way. "

#### GROWING AS AN ARTIST

Writing is McRae's passion. She has already written 12 songs in the past 3 months, even after the release of "I Won't Settle For Less." With the encouragement of success and the passing of time, she continually finds herself maturing and honing her skills. "Every year I grow and go through different things," she says.

For her first album, McRae's "full band" was augmented by member of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who she met as a result of being in the right place at the right time. "The Dirt Band was recording in the same studio as I, and they were walking back and forth to the coffee machine, which happened to be right behind the studio I was working in. The door opened and Jimmy Ibbotson stuck his head in and said, 'I really like what I'm hearing.' So we started talking and he came back in the next weekend to sing on "Homefields," which is such a "Dirt Band" kind of tune. Afterwards he was so nice and said, "thanks for having me!" I said, "NO, thank you!" I just love Jimmy's voice and have always been a big fan.

#### CARRYING THE DISTANCE

In the liner notes, it says, 'The biggest human temptation is to settle for too little,' McRae states, "is this not the typicality of human beings? How often do we settle? I think quite often." Staying true to her message is important to McRae and she refuses to compromise for the sake of commercial success. "Nothing is true and lasting if it isn't real. In the end, if you're real with what you do and give something unique and from the heart, that is what is going to carry the distance."