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**MANITOBA SONGSTRESS BACK ON THE SCENE
Christmas Album Being Heard Across Canada & the UK**

Winnipeg, Manitoba (December 16, 2009) -- After three years living overseas, a Manitoba songstress has resurfaced in the Canadian music scene with a new album that's making waves across the country.

Sonia Funk, who now resides in London, England, recently returned to making music with the release of *Karel*. This collection of traditional Christmas carols features familiar melodies that resonate with Sonia's angelic voice, resulting in one unforgettable holiday recording. Here is what some listeners have said about *Karel*:

"Sonia has produced a set of songs that respect the traditions of the carol while giving them a modern, stylish setting."
-- ChuckerCanuck.blogspot.com --

"...looks and sounds great – Beautifully done!!"
-- Connie Bailey, Program Director, The Eagle 93.5 FM --

"MY NEW FAVORITE CHRISTMAS RECORD!!!!"
-- Trev Schellenberg, Program Director for Mix 96.7 and CHVN --

During the first two weeks of December, *Karel* garnered nearly 400 spins on stations across the Canadian prairies, and nationally on CBC Radio One and CBC Radio 3. Plays are also popping up on stations in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and the Yukon.

ABOUT KAREL

Having taken a hiatus from singing/songwriting to pursue education and travel, Sonia decided to ease back into music with *Karel*. She recorded the album during the summer in Montreal, with good friend and co-producer Graham Playford. Initially intended to be a pet project, she received such positive response that she decided to release it to radio. With plans in full swing by fall, she was determined not to let anything stop her – not even becoming sick with the H1N1 virus. While it's been a slow recovery for Sonia since October, at the same time it's been a fast rise for *Karel*, which continues to pleasantly surprise her.

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"I'm pretty amazed at the way Canadian radio has taken to the album," says Sonia, speaking on the phone from her home across the pond. According to Sonia, the most popular songs have been *The Huron Carol*, followed by *The First Noel*, and *O Come O Come Emmanuel* – all of which have so far earned a multitude of airplay, and are helping to put Sonia back on the radio radar.

"In addition to adding these tracks to Christmas playlists, radio programmers are asking about getting their hands on some of my non-Christmas music. So the New Year looks bright for my musical comeback!" she joked.

In her current hometown of London, Mood Media UK has included the album in Christmas playlists that are sent out to retail and hospitality clients across the UK and Europe, giving this Manitoba songstress a truly global reach. Meanwhile, here in Canada, *Karel* is available for sale at the following retail locations:

- Winnipeg – Christmas Traditions at the Forks, McNally Robinson Booksellers (Grant Park & Polo Park), Hulls Bookstore
- Winkler – GingerWood Lane
- Altona – The Cotton Cottage
- Morden – Heartland Café
- Steinbach – Hulls Bookstore

Links for listening to clips from *Karel* can be found at www.soniafunkmusic.com. Individual tracks can be purchased at www.itunes.com, with 10% of all money raised from retail and online sales donated to charity. Sonia has chosen ONEXONE to receive the proceeds from *Karel*, which will go towards water and hunger initiatives in North America and abroad www.onexone.org.

ABOUT SONIA FUNK

Canadian singer/songwriter Sonia (Marie) Funk hails from the Manitoba town of Winkler. She began her musical career shortly after moving to Winnipeg for University, releasing her first full-length album in 1999.

Sonia spent many years touring the prairies either solo or with her band, playing everything from small cafes, to sharing the bill with The Matthew Good Band. She won several performance and songwriting awards along the way, including a Top Ten spot in the National Songwriting Competition for *Ashes Fall Down*.

In 2006 Sonia returned to school to finish her post-secondary education as a holistic nutritionist, and also embarked on some travel. Having spent several years between Toronto, New York, and London, she recently returned to music with the release of *Karel*. She plans to follow up with a new EP of original material in 2010.

www.soniafunkmusic.com

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