



KERILIE MCDOWALL

<https://kerilie.com/music-1/> <https://kerilie.com/contact> [Portfolio of Kerilie McDowall — Oceanview Guitar Studio & Creative Services](#) @keriliemcdowall 1-250-668-3589 <https://kerilie.com>

Music, Performance, Writing, and Film Summary

- A&R for Fromm Consulting (Texas, USA). A new A&R role at Fromm Consulting, founded by 70× platinum songwriter Andrew Fromm—a 27-year music-industry veteran. Since 2008, Andrew and team have completed nearly 200 music rights deals (Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Justin Timberlake, Jennifer Lopez, Eric Clapton, Rihanna), totaling over \$1.25 billion in total sales.
- 17-time award-winning artist, excelling as a jazz guitarist, guitar teacher, composer, writer, TV director, recording artist/filmmaker/writer press and grant coach, and music juror.
- A pioneering Canadian female jazz guitarist-bandleader, McDowall led bands from 1989 and performed professionally in Vancouver for a decade, resuming in Nanaimo, BC in 2023.
- Broad experience spans composing, performing, teaching adults and youth, writing, and collaborating with diverse communities.
- Kerilie McDowall is a Polaris juror (2018-2026), former JUNO judge, 2025 MiMc Awards (Music in Motion Canada) Grant writing and Music adjudicator, DownBeat juror (2016-2026), contributing as a jazz music writer and music critic to the USA's *DownBeat* from 2016-20, Canada's *Canadian Musician*, *INSPIRED 55+*, and *Musicworks*, and the USA's *AllAboutJazz.com*.
- In 2024, McDowall received the Women of Influence Creative Innovator Award in Nanaimo for her short film, *In the Zone: Rick Kilburn*, and a King Charles III Coronation Medal nomination for community volunteer service. Her work reflects a dedication to music, writing, film, and the arts, cultural education, and music education.
- McDowall volunteered in TV directing, leading TV crews for 6 years, and as a Shaw Spotlight TV Host and co-host, and as a TV producer for seven years. She produced the award-winning "Rhythm'a'ning" jazz radio shows for 17 years. Her 2020 Shaw TV film, "In the Zone: Rick Kilburn," gained 14 awards, 12 selections, and 10 global nominations: (Berlin, Paris)
- She owns Oceanview Guitar Studio, teaching the guitar, music, and film to students aged six and up to seniors. Her skills include all levels and guitar styles, jazz/pop/rock/blues improvisation, classical guitar, composition, film, writing, grant writing, and communications. Teaching people of all abilities. Kerilie has music teaching experience working with children who have ADHD, and learning and developmental disabilities.
- Kerilie used to run and supervise a recreation program for disadvantaged children for an Ontario government program.
- Kerilie has performed with: Kevin Elashuk, trumpet; Graham Ord, saxophones; Allan Johnston, acoustic bass; Bruce Nielsen, drums; George McFetridge, piano, Dylan van der Schyff, Glenna Powrie, piano; John Korsrud, trumpet; Paul Blaney, acoustic bass; Stan Taylor, drums, Lisa Sazama, vocals, hand drum; Jimmy and Elisha Sidlar, vocals, and drums; Mickey Earnshaw, drums; and Chris Nelson, bass; Mother of Pearl, Karen Graves, Paul Beckett, Rumba Calzada, Julio Cabrera, and more.
- In April 2025, she became the founder of Avebury Moon Music & Film, a new film production and music publishing company

Arts And Cultural Training and Learning

1996 Canada Council award for music composition in jazz, and further studies with composition/arranging mentor, sessions with renowned star jazz composers in New York

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and Toronto. (Ritchie Beirach piano, John Abercrombie guitar, Ben Monder, guitar, Don Thompson, bass/vibraphone/piano, Lorne Lofsky, Ted Quinlan).

- 1988-90 Composition/New Music studies with the US composer James Tenney, York University.
- 1985-1990 **B.F.A. Music Performance, Jazz/Classical Guitar, and Composition - York University**, Toronto (North York), Ontario, Canada, diploma received, courses completed.
- 1982-85 Private Classical Guitar studies with master guitar teacher Eli Kassner (Instructor to Liona Boyd, Norbert Kraft, Lenny Breau.) Studies in piano/music theory with William Westcott.
- 1981-83 Blues guitar mentoring by Toronto blues guitarist Buzz Upshaw.
- 1973-74 Recorder (music), weekly music class of Saturday advanced enrichment classes for gifted Toronto, Ontario, Canada primary school students.
- 1972-82 Violinist, school performances, and music education since grade 5 (1977). Private violin lessons (1974), Royal Conservatory of Music, 1972 ukulele. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Artistic And Cultural Work Presented to the Public

- 1999 CBC Radio Hot Air, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Kerilie McDowall Quintet/Sextet Recording. An interview with Paul Grant, produced by Neil Ritchie for the Vancouver jazz radio show Hot Air, and a recording of one jazz standard and five original compositions of my quintet and sextet group. The CBC studio recordings were broadcasted by Neil Ritchie on CBC Radio's former jazz program Hot Air. June 12, 1999, CBC Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- 1995 City Wildflower studio recording, March 19, 1995, Crosstown Studios, Vancouver, BC, not formally internationally released. Seven original compositions with quintet and special guests. (Self-produced).

Selected Performances

- 1999 CBC Recording of the Kerilie McDowall Sextet on Hot Air, Vancouver radio.
- 1995-2000 Vancouver International Jazz Festival Performances & Roundhouse.
- 1992-1996 Vancouver Glass Slipper and Vancouver East Cultural Centre performances.
- 1982-1984 Professional performances at Lee's Palace in pop bands in Toronto, Ontario.

Career Highlights Summary

- Founder of Avebury Moon Music & Film, 2025.
- Online and Festival solo performances: Women's Spirit Festival (3 performances), Founder's Time (two performances), The Awakened Heart Festival (with Clodagh Meiklejohn, UK), Globe Sound Healing Conference (with David Gibson, USA), ONStage Podcast, The Abundant Woman Podcast (USA), Business Unleashed (USA) and appearances on Quantum Leap Your Business (UK), ONstage Music Podcast (Canada), and the OMG Podcast (USA) 2024-2025.
- Nanaimo pre-release of selected tracks (clips) produced by Rick Kilburn and City Wildflower tracks onto YouTube with a track demo reel of McDowall's work on Vimeo, to be formally released in the future. 2023-2025.
- **Creative Innovator Award**, Women of Influence, Nanaimo 2024.
- **#1 Alignable.com Business Leader in Nanaimo**, 20th Ranked Female in North America out of 9 million users (Oceanview Guitar Studio & Creative Services).

- 14 Music Film short documentary awards for **In the Zone: Rick Kilburn**: 3-Hollywood, 2- Japan, 1-China, 2- Las Vegas, 2- Canada, 1- UK, 1-S. Korea, 1- Milan. Includes 5 Best Short Documentary, 3 Best Web and New Media, Best Inspirational Film, Best Director, Best First Time Female Director, etc. 2020-2024.
- JUNO Awards music judge 2016-2025/26 .
- Creation of **Oceanview Guitar Studio & Creative Services** 2017.
- Guest Performance with Miles Black and Mike Allen, Nanaimo Conservatory of Music 2016.
- Vancouver DuMaurier Jazz Festival appearances 1995-2000.
- Quintet/sextet/nonet Vancouver bandleader, professional musician 1989-2000.
- Club, festival, party, radio, and TV performances as a bandleader (Santos, O'Doul's, Talking Stick, Haywood Bandstand, Harmony Arts Festival, Café Bergman, etc.) 1989-2000.
- Sideplayer guitarist jazz , pop, and R&B performances 1989-2000.
- 1999 performances and recording with the Indigenous Ghost Band.
- CBC Hot Air Kerilie McDowall Sextet recording 1999.
- Headliner for the Press Announcement 1996, Vancouver DuMaurier Jazz Festival.
- Rave quintet review, Guitar Player Magazine, 'Spotlight' 1996.
- Vancouver Glass Slipper and Vancouver East Cultural Centre performances 1992-1996.
- Duo and Trio performances with Chris Nelson and Al Johnston 1989-1995.
- Co-op Radio Performance 1995 .
- Grant Study (2 months) in New York City with John Abercrombie Richie Beirach, Ben Monder, Kenny Werner 1995.
- Grant Study in Toronto with Lorne Lofsky, Ted Quinlan, Rob Piltch 1995.
- B Grant Award, Canada Council, Jazz Composition 1995 .
- City Wildflower cassette recording 1992.
- Pioneering female jazz guitar bandleader in Canada 1989.
- York University Music Peggy Sampson Award, 1987.
- Professional performances at Lee's Palace in pop bands in Toronto, Ontario 1982-1984.

Current Activities:

- Hope to record demo recordings of "Spirit Blues," and "The River" with Creative BC in September 2026.
- Plans to apply for Canada Council **Way** Album Project December 2026.
- Upcoming USA Solo Meditative Spiritual Jazz Guitar Performances and Business Interviews: Positive Talk Radio, The Scene, Infinite Vision Studio, All Pros Podcast, and Roar March to April 2026
- Launching of a second business, Publishing and Production Business, **Avebury Moon Music & Film** 2026
- Ongoing creation/Arranging of 14 jazz compositions and active composing August 2025-March 2026/present
- Plans to release a new EPK of 1990s tracks recorded with 20-time award-winning jazz producer/film star Rick Kilburn in 2026
- Coaching recording artists and music awards winners for MiMc Music Awards, Music in Motion Canada, 2026
- Polaris Music Prize judge 2018-present
- *DownBeat* Critics' Poll Jazz Music Judge 2016-present

Artists And Community Collaboration Activities

2025 Commencement of creating the idea to release a jazz recording with jazz producer Luigi Porretta. (Planned, as funding permits.)

Arts And Cultural Work Experience

2020 Creative City Network of Canada Publicist, Ottawa, remote.

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- 2013-20 Nanaimo Conservatory of Music and Bethlehem Centre Music Events/Communications.
 2013-2019 Nanaimo Dan Brubeck Publicist and Vancouver Island Tour Planner, Publicist, Music Booking, and Tours for major Canadian jazz artists.
- 2017 Suggestion to initiate a Snuneymuxw Reconciliation gathering at my past workplace, the Bethlehem Centre, to the Executive Director, which resulted in a community reconciliation event.
- 2015 Culture Days organizer at the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music.
- 1999 Vancouver Jazz Festival Roundhouse performance collaboration with Kerilie McDowall Sextet and the Ghost Band (Previous collaboration with the Indigenous Ghost Band, with a jazz composition "Tree Talk"), and music transcriptions and arrangements from Vancouver guitarist Tony Wilson

Teaching And Mentorships, Awards, Community Recognition, Memberships

Publicity, grants, and industry mentorship and workshops on ZOOM with recording artists. Workshops with theatre, community, and opera groups in media liaison and press/publicity. Mentoring in film and guitar with youth.

- 2024 Creative Innovator Award.
- 13 Film awards: 3-Hollywood, 2- Japan, 1-China, 2- Las Vegas, 2- Canada, 1- UK, 1-S. Korea, 1- Milan. Includes 5 Best Short Documentary, 3 Best Web and New Media, Best Inspirational Film, Best Director, etc.

Memberships current: SOCAN, IMDB Pro, Film Freeway. *All About Jazz*, Nanaimo International Jazz Festival, and North Vancouver Island Film Commission member. Past membership: Friends of Nanaimo Jazz, Coastal Jazz and Blues.

Music Assessment, Judging, Adjudication

- 2025/26 MiMc Grant and Music Adjudicator, Music in Motion Canada. Assisting and coaching recording artists with understanding grants and grant-ready preparation/opportunities. Judging and assessing shortlisted established recording artists and emerging artists for talent and artist potential, and final awards.
- 2016-2026 JUNO Awards judge off and on, Canada. Duties included assessing instrumental jazz and general instrumental nominees in two rounds with other journalists, radio hosts, music experts, and volunteers for Canada's equivalent to the Grammys.
- 2022 Canadian Musicians Co-op. Emerging music talent assessor/judge. Subbing in for my friend and founder, Valerie Werner, who could not be present that year due to an emergency.
- 2018-present Polaris Music Prize judge, Canada. Scouting Canada for Canada's best album and music artist yearly for the first round and the Long and Short List. Judging recording artists in collaboration with an assessment jury of 225+ journalists and radio producers for the final \$50,000 prize.
- 2016-present *DownBeat jazz magazine* Critics Poll juror (USA). Scouting Canadian emerging jazz talents to suggest to the international poll, voting, and suggesting for all jazz instruments, vocals, groups, best artist, best group, and album of the year, historical album, beyond category, and more, taking note of the best North American and international jazz for the prestigious Critics Poll.

Music Journalism

- 2022-present *In the Zen* music and lifestyle blog, founder formerly at the Beehiiv website and currently at Kerilie.com.
- 2018-present AllAboutJazz.com (USA), part-time volunteer jazz music writer

- 2015-2022 Shaw Spotlight TV, CHLY 101.7 FM radio part-time volunteer. Television, Radio production, hosting, engineering, and writing. Editing, Storytelling, Content Writing.
- 2016-2020 *DownBeat* magazine (USA). Professional Magazine Writing, Creative Writing, Content Strategy, Editing, Music and Book Reviews, and Critics Poll judging. Proofreading, Technical Writing (Music).
- 2013-2015 Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, 2015-2020 Bethlehem Centre: Copywriting, Content Creation, Website Copywriting, Media Production, Interviews, Social Media Copywriting, Email Copywriting, Product Descriptions, Blog Writing. Website copywriting increased Nanaimo Conservatory's Web Traffic by 30-40%. Copywriting Expertise: Demonstrated skill in brand storytelling, crafting compelling content for both print and digital platforms. Contributed to 5 diverse magazines and 5 online websites, showcasing versatility and adaptability. Innovative Thinking: Proven ability to develop creative and engaging creative and business concepts, delivering exceptional results across various media formats.

Film Summary

- Kerilie McDowall launched her new film production and music artist/publishing business, **Avebury Moon Music & Film**, in Nanaimo, BC, on April 1, 2025.
- McDowall was the assistant Director and continuity to Brian Morelan, shooting on green screen for the sci-fi comedy, *Splicer's Daughter*.
- A driven/accomplished worker, McDowall commenced in 2019, a 13-time award-winning 2020 short jazz documentary as the filmmaker of *In the Zone: Rick Kilburn*. The short was filmed, directed, and edited in 2019-20 at Shaw Spotlight TV, while McDowall was running her past guitar-teaching/arts business, Canadian Online Guitar Lessons, while writing for *DownBeat* magazine (2016-20). Kerilie's short film has had a FilmHub distribution offer, and she is considering all options, consulting with experts for educational distribution.
- Her short film reached 1.4 billion IMDB Pro film cast hits from June 2023 to 2024.
- In 2024, Kerilie's focus was on distributing and pitching TV films, directing/coaching, and composing for the release of a future jazz quintet album.
- Strong skills and expertise in diverse areas of TV/film, writing, and the music industry.
- A communicative, collaborative team player. Proven history of fostering excellent work habits to meet team, individual, and management objectives.
- Kerilie has been a business owner who was also delivering music, film, and non-profit/music business instruction/workshops.
- As a writer, she creates her part-time blog, *In the Zen*.

Film Volunteer Experience

2015 – 2022 **Community Television Director/Producer/Co-Host/Host**, volunteer 2
Shaw Spotlight, Nanaimo, BC

1.47 billion 2023-24 IMDB Pro movie site film cast hits as a TV Director/Narrator/Filmmaker.

- TV Director (6 years, 400+ volunteer hours- estimate only) directing/switcher operation. Television Director of 5-6 people, including 2/3 camera operators, a sound operator, graphics, jib, and 540+ extra

producing volunteer hours, photography, jib and camera operating, mobile switching, Skype broadcasting/producing during the pandemic, assistant to Director/Producer Todd Jones in the mobile/other charity events, film editing, and some soundboard.

- Kerilie spent 6 years directing 4-6 crew (2-3 live cameras, with 2 additional stationary cameras, soundman, graphics person, while switching/directing) on the 30-minute TV program Coast Connections weekly, then bi-weekly from 2015 until 2018, then monthly until 2020. The studio was closed from March 2020 to May 2022. Kerilie continued with Skype broadcasting. Kerilie was also involved with limited additional guest directing of Change the World, Wise Folks at Shaw Spotlight, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.
- As a thirteen-time award-winning short jazz documentary TV Producer/Director of ***In the Zone: Rick Kilburn***, she was mentored by Todd Jones while volunteering at Shaw TV, which was retitled as Shaw Spotlight, then merged in after 2023 with Rogers Communications.
- IMDb Pro/Film Freeway TV Director member, Vancouver Island North Film Commission member.
- Celebrity interviewer as a volunteer community TV Host, (7 years) Jazz Radio Host/Producer (17 yrs.) The Show Shaw TV co-host for 7 years, host of Community Producers occasionally at Shaw Spotlight television, (producer, 7 years).
- TV Directing of award-winning artist Robert Bateman. Production of award-winning Roy Henry Vickers.
- Production of inclusive Indigenous-focused TV, training new TV directing volunteers at Shaw Spotlight.

2017 **Continuity and Assistant Director to Brian Morelan**

Splicer's Daughter, Nanaimo, BC (Professional work)

- Assistant to Director Brian Morelan for the sci-fi comedy, Splicer's Daughter. Duties were set photography (all), continuity, consulting with Brian when he wanted feedback, as his assistant, and direction of another continuity volunteer.

1984–24 **OTHER PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE EXPERIENCE**

Vancouver, BC, and Toronto, ON

- Keynote speaking (Toronto, Nanaimo), Sound Bath guitar/singing bowl performances. Globe Sound Healing Conference performance/presenter, Women's Spirit Festival, Quantum Leap Your Business, podcast guesting: Founders Time, Abundant Woman, Business Unleashed, ONStage Podcast.

1990–2000 Professional Vancouver jazz guitarist, pop, R&B, Latin jazz performances (10 yrs).

- Photography modelling (Vancouver, Toronto). First film appearance, age 9/10, Toronto.
- Star female lead in Toronto with touring high school theatre performances against bullying.
- 1999 CBC Radio Hot Air Kerilie McDowall Quintet band recording, recorded/produced by Neil Ritchie.
- Kerilie McDowall featured on *Jazz Guitars show*, CFUV, 1996 rave *Spotlight* in *Guitar Player* magazine.

2017-2024 **OCEANVIEW GUITAR STUDIO & CREATIVE SERVICES**

Nanaimo, BC

- Film festing for new directors and YouTube Film workshops for children. Extensive professional music industry experience, guitar and music instruction, former instructor at People's Music, and Continuing Education night school instructor. Taught young guitar and adult recording artists, and

film students in lessons, coaching, and workshops for arts groups and non-profits.

- Musical instruments (since age 5), recorder, violin, piano, main instrument, guitar. SOCAN member.
- Windows 10, & 11, Zoom, Zoom H2, MS Office, Adobe, Rebel Canon with a zoom, Neewer 3-unit lighting, Otter ai, Winamp, Durable, Squarespace, Canva, guitar amps, scan, social media (8 platforms), iPhone 13 Pro Max, 7 Plus; Mac Book, some Premier Pro, AudioMass, Clipchamp, Audacity.

1989-90 2000-16 **Radio Experience, CFUV, CHLY 101.7 FM**

- Victoria, BC/ Nanaimo, BC
- Volunteer Jazz Radio Host/Producer/ Engineer, 17 years. (Live.)

Awards

Film: *In the Zone: Rick Kilburn* - 5 Best Short Documentary Awards: Hong Kong International Film Festival 2021, Toronto Independent Film Festival of CIFT, Japan International Film Festival, London Monthly International Film Festival, Vegas Movie Awards, Best Director, Seoul International Short Film Festival, Best Web & New Media: IndieX, Indie Short Fest, Independent Shorts Awards, and more. Recipient of three technology film awards: Best Web/New Media, Best Inspirational Film: Vegas Movie Awards. (*In the Zone: Rick Kilburn* Global Film Awards from London, Milan, Toronto, Japan, Las Vegas, Hollywood, China, South Korea. 10 nominations: Berlin, Paris.)

Two music awards: (York University, Canada Council Grant, Jazz Composition B Award).

Radio podcasting/Journalism: Stiletto Award, Black Women in Jazz & the Arts Award.

Past Speaking Events, Guesting, Articles, Press

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| • OMG Talk | • Afro News |
| • All About Jazz | • Nanaimo News Bulletin |
| • Nanaimo Magazine | • Times Colonist |
| • Women's Spirit Festival | • Film Daily |
| • Radio Victoria | • Toronto Film Magazine |
| • Founders Time | • Montreal Independent Film Magazine |
| • Abundant Woman Podcast | • That Eric Alper |
| • ONStage Podcast | • PQB News |
| • What's Next (radio) | • Guitar Player Magazine |
| • Character Driven (radio) | • Terminal City |
| • Hot Air CBC Radio | • Beyond the Curve International Film Festival |
| • COOP Radio | • FilmHAUS |
| • CFUV | • Globe Sound Healing Conference |
| • Awakened Heart Festival | • Quantum Leap Your Business |
| • Business Unleashed | • Vancouver Sun |
| • Business Examiner | |

Film Festivals, Selections, And Nominations

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| • Hollywood | • Tokyo |
| • Las Vegas | • Toronto |
| • Hong Kong | • Calgary |
| • Seoul | • New York |

- Brooklyn, NYC
- Montreal
- Milan
- Sweden
- London, UK
- Fererra, Italy
- Paris, France
- Switzerland
- Utah, USA
- Berlin
- Los Angeles
- San Francisco
- Brisbane, Australia
- Los Angeles
- Rome
- Barcelona, Spain
- Cannes, France

“Kerilie’s advice was an absolute Godsend...”—**JUNO-winning bassist Rich Brown**

“Well, there may be 8 million guitarists in the world, but Kerilie McDowall is certainly one of the best. Guitar Player magazine calls her playing ‘smooth and elegant,’ to which I would add, intelligent and original.”

—**Paul Grant, Host, CBC Hot Air, Vancouver, BC**

“Kerilie is a rare combination of ardent supporter, facilitator, and artist. Whether it’s journalism, broadcasting, filmmaking, educating, or her own music making, Kerilie’s contribution to the creative music ecosystem is immense!”—**JUNO Award bandleader/guitarist Stephen Lyons, Fond of Tigers**

“Kerilie McDowall fronts a first-rate jazz quintet...Labels, listen up...A very talented musician.” “...an appealing Blue Note ambience.” “Smooth, elegant playing...warm, relaxing tones.” “...impressive are her composing skills.”—**Guitar Player Magazine**

“Kerilie McDowall emerged in the 1990s as the leading female voice in jazz guitar in Canada. Lyrically original in both the melodic sense and harmonic concept. And she SWINGS!”—**Al Johnston, bassist/composer (Grupo Jazz Tumbao, Orquesta La Clave, Orquesta Goma Dura, Xarabanda, JUNO Nominee Rumba Calzada, Shangó Ashé, La Raza Latina, Alma Libre).**

“Kerilie is one of those rare people who really understands music and art while also understanding how to share it in a way that is efficient and beneficial to both the artist and the art form. With her contagious passion and energy, she reminded me of the importance and meaning of this fascinating career path and the importance and value of hard work. Kerilie is deeply passionate about art and people; she is generous, inspiring, and supportive, and is a great source of knowledge, which are all qualities that contribute to her being an outstanding teacher.”

—**2022, Gentiane Michaud-Gagnon (Radio-Canada Revelation Prize (2019), François-Marcaurette Award from the Quebec Musicians’ Guild (2019), OPUS Award for Artist of the Year (2020), and Best Jazz Album of the Year (2023). Walls Made of Glass was also nominated for the ADISQ (Quebec) and JUNO Awards (Canada) in 2024.)**

“Divine improvisation,”—**Slish Dryden, Terminal City**

“Not enough women in jazz, you say? Kerilie McDowall is doing her bit to even things out... [she] plays a smooth, straight-ahead style.”—**Marke Andrews, The Vancouver Sun.**

“If you’re a music lover, then the short film documentary In the Zone: Rick Kilburn, Vancouver Island Bassist and Producer is a must-watch.”—**Film Daily, Illinois, USA.**

“You will fall in love with the personality behind the great Rick Kilburn in this intimate and fascinating documentary short.”—**FILMHAUS Berlin**