



TOUESNARD, Tara Lynne — 21, River Bourgeois, Richmond County, died April 25, 1994, as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Born in Sydney, she was a daughter of Adrian and Tena (Mombourquette) Touesnard. She was a brilliant young musician who was always using her talents to integrate herself into a wide range of community activities. She received many prestigious awards, such as the Atlantic Junior Citizen of the Year, 1989; the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award, 1990; Phi Delta Kappa International Scholarship Grant, 1990; Alumni Music Award from Acadia University, 1990 and 1991 and the Curtis Chipman Award from Acadia University, 1991. She appeared on the YTV program entitled Canada's Best as a follow-up to her receiving the Terry Fox Achievement Award from YTV in November, 1990. In 1991 she was awarded a Cultural Life Award by the Cultural Federation of Nova Scotia that recognized and honoured her exceptional leadership, commitment and dedication to the cultural life of the province. In June 1992, she won first prize, nationwide, in the traditional category of the Give Me A Song Contest, sponsored by Today's Generation Magazine and Roland Canada. She was a student at Acadia University, Wolfville. She is survived by two sisters, Rhonda (Mrs. Dennis Lanctot), Ottawa; Krista, at home; maternal grandparents, Cornelius and Blanche (Samson) Mombourquette, Rockdale; paternal grandparents, Gerard and Cecilia (Samson) Touesnard, River Bourgeois; many aunts, uncles and cousins. Visitation will be 2-4, 7-9 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday in River Bourgeois Community Funeral Home, River Bourgeois. Funeral will be 2 p.m. Thursday in St. John the Baptist Church, River Bourgeois, Rev. Bernard MacDonald officiating. Burial will be in parish cemetery. Donations may be made to Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research or School of Music, Acadia University. Arrangements under the direction of C.H. Boudreau Funeral Home, Arichat.

A touching tribute to a fine fiddler

Sanctuary adds a little tension with new tracks on Refuge

By Stephen Pedersen
Arts Reporter

Let's Never Say Farewell: Tara Lynne Tousesnard — TLTC04

Nearly 10 years after a car accident took the life of 21-year-old River Bourgeois fiddler Tara Lynne Tousesnard on April 25, 1994, her family has issued a compilation CD of choice tracks from her three previously issued albums.

Tousesnard was only 15 when she recorded *Heritage* in 1988, followed by *Fiddle Fingers* in 1990 and *Bowing the Strings* in '92. A fourth album was in preparation when she died.

Not only a memorial, *Let's Never Say Farewell* joins an annual Thanksgiving weekend memorial concert in River Bourgeois and the Tara Lynn Tousesnard Memorial Award offered each July by the Maritime Fiddlers' Association to perpetuate her memory through providing financial support for student musicians to help develop their musical talents. All proceeds will be used to further this goal.

Even in a field so crowded with first-class talents, Tousesnard's playing on *Let's Never Say Farewell* is extraordinary, unique. The CD opens with *Ashokan Farewell*, a beautiful lament which features Tousesnard's full sweet tone and the even drawing of her bow.

She was, say the liner notes, the first to record this now popular tune, after hearing it in the background for the Civil War Series on TV.

The even richness of Tousesnard's tone combines with her nimble finger technique and her sensitive respect for danceable tempos. Even on *Orange Blossom Special*, most often treated by fiddlers as a show-stopper played at breakneck speed, Tousesnard plays for the feet.

There are two sets of waltzes, a set each of jigs and reels, and a set of clogs with hornpipe and reel. She plays the first of her two original tunes, a jig called *My Mom*, as well as the second and last, *MacKinnon's March*, written in 1994 and played on *Let's Never Say Farewell* by her sister Krista Tousesnard.



Contributed

Even in a field so crowded with first-class talents, Tara Lynne Tousesnard's playing on *Let's Never Say Farewell* is extraordinary, unique.

A touching slow tune called *For the Love of Tara* is contributed by her brother-in-law, fiddler/songwriter Denis Lancot, and there is a tribute from her colleagues on the 1994 Cape Breton Revue, in rehearsal at the time of her death. Fred Lavery and Steven Gaetz wrote the CD title song which is sung by Richard Burke (lead vocal).

There is everything to admire about this CD, and only one thing to regret. It gives everyone a chance to reacquire themselves with a major Nova Scotian musical talent.

CDs are available from Tena Tousesnard 535-2373 in River Bourgeois, *Violins and Fiddles* in New Glasgow 755-2120, Liz Durning in Truro 897-2812 and Mingo Music Sales in Truro 895-7702, as well as in Antigonish, Carroll's Corner, Moncton and Fredericton.

Tribute to
Tara Lynne Touesnard,
River Bourgeois, Cape Breton, N.S.

Tara Lynne Touesnard, River Bourgeois, Cape Breton, N.S. passed away on April 25, 1994, at the age of 21 years, as the result of a motor vehicle accident. She was enrolled at Acadia University studying towards a degree in music. Her plans were to teach.

Tara Lynne was a special person. Her musical talents, particularly as a fiddler, were widely known and recognized. She was a finalist and champion many times over in fiddle contests across Canada and placed first in her class on 4 occasions in this Maritime Old Time Fiddling Contest.

She clearly exemplified the best qualities of good citizenship having been awarded a number of special honours including Atlantic Junior Citizen of the Year in 1989 and the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award in 1990. She was humble, practised the golden rule and set an excellent example for others. It can surely be said that she lived life to its fullest. Energy in abundance carried her when poor health acted to slow her down. Her love of providing enjoyment to others was ever present and she always gave her best.

It is a joy to have known her, and a gift to have experienced her warm personality, her friendship and her great talent. Her memory is truly one of life's treasures.



Jamie and Liz Durning
Halifax, Nova Scotia