



TEACHER RESOURCES

BRUCE COCKBURN



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit mhrth.com/sharethemusic

One of Canada's finest artists, Bruce Cockburn, has enjoyed an illustrious career shaped by politics, spirituality, and musical diversity. His remarkable journey has seen him embrace folk, jazz, rock, and worldbeat styles while travelling to such far-flung places as Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, and Nepal and writing memorable songs about his ever-expanding world of wonders. Cockburn has earned high praise as an exceptional songwriter and a revered guitarist. His songs of romance, protest, and spiritual discovery are among the best to have emerged from Canada over the last 40 years. His guitar playing, both acoustic and electric, has placed him in the company of the world's top instrumentalists. He remains deeply respected for his activism on issues from native rights and land mines, to the environment and Third World debt, working for Oxfam, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, and Friends of the Earth.

Cockburn has deftly captured the joy, pain, fear, and faith of human experience in song throughout his career. Whether singing about retreating to the country, going up against chaos, tackling imperialist lies, or embracing religious truths, he has always expressed a tough yet hopeful stance: to kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight. For his many achievements, the Ottawa-born artist has been honoured with 12 JUNO Awards, an induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, and a Governor General's Performing Arts Award, and has been made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

His commitment to growth has made Bruce Cockburn both an exemplary citizen and a legendary artist whose prized songbook will be celebrated for many years to come.

“My job is to try and trap the spirit of things in the scratches of pen on paper and the pulling of notes out of metal.”



DID YOU KNOW?

BRUCE COCKBURN HAS RECEIVED HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM 7 UNIVERSITIES. HE HAS PHDS FROM YORK, BERKLEE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, QUEENS, MEMORIAL, LAURENTIAN, CARLETON, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ How can music be considered activism?
- ◆ What are some of Bruce Cockburn's topics of interest/concern?
- ◆ What famous Canadian works of art has Bruce Cockburn used for some of his album covers? ([Alex Colville](#), [Norval Morrisseau](#))
- ◆ Can you name some other artists who have covered Bruce Cockburn's songs?



FURTHER RESOURCES

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <https://brucecockburn.com>

TO LEARN

Learn more about Cockburn's thoughts on political and human rights issues [here](#).

TO LISTEN

Bruce Cockburn, *If A Tree Falls* ([Spotify](#))

Bruce Cockburn, *Waiting For A Miracle* ([Spotify](#))

TO WATCH

Bruce Cockburn, *Lovers In A Dangerous Time*, live: ([YouTube](#))

SHARE THE MUSIC:

Share the Music, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students' musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to **Bruce Cockburn** and other notable performances. For more information, please visit mhrth.com/sharethemusic

CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

EMAIL: education@mh-rth.com **WEBSITE:** mhrth.com/education

