



Featuring the award-winning Live at Massey Hall films, these free films offer insight into the Canadian music scene, with behind the scenes interviews with artists, stellar performances, plus short curriculum connected guides with pre- and post-viewing activities for select films. Activities can be completed synchronously or asynchronously, in-school or at-home.

*Suggested age: Secondary school, some concerts contain explicit language. See specific details, notes, and highlights in the "Concert Highlights" section below.*

## AMELIA CURRAN



Amelia Curran is a singer, songwriter, producer and multiple award winner from Newfoundland. Her music spans multiple genres including indie rock, folk-rock, and alternative country. Over her career, she has made nine albums and has amassed 17 music awards and over 30 nominations. Most notably, she has won both a JUNO Award and a SOCAN award. She is known for her music as well as her advocacy and humanitarian work focusing on mental health awareness and systemic reform. In 2015, Amelia was instrumental in developing a non-profit organization called "It's Mental", created to raise awareness for mental health issues, improve educational resources, and provide support. Her music also reflects her off-stage efforts in the community. Her album *Watershed* "calls for compassion and unification as a breakwater against the sea of cruelties we inflict upon each other, and upon ourselves." (Sixshooter records).

## TALKING POINTS

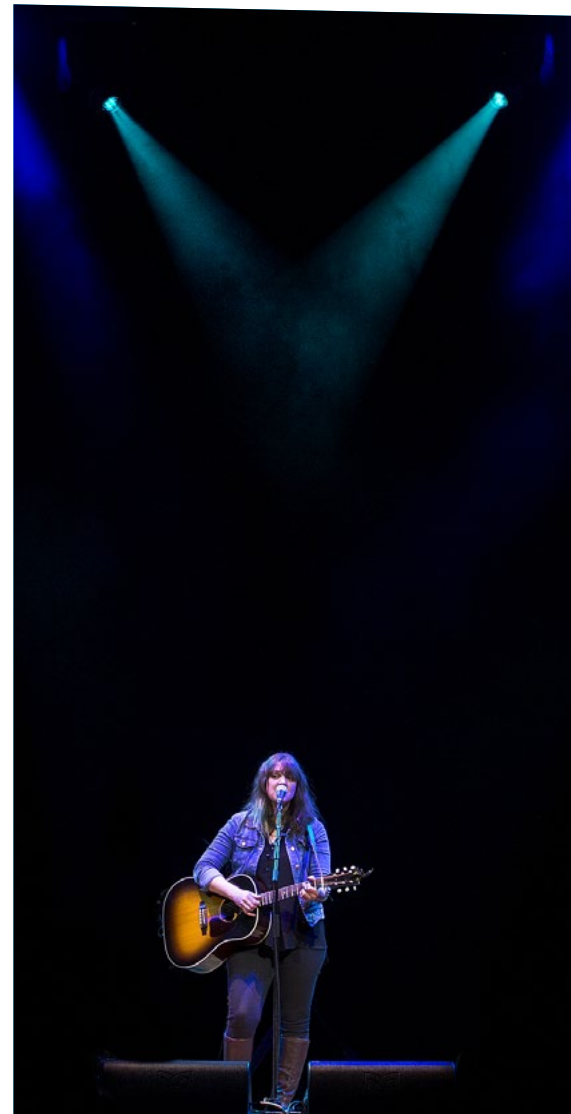
Amelia advocates for mental health and the issues that surround her life and the place she lives. Do you support any movements in your local community? Do you know any other artists that advocate for a particular cause?

How does tempo change the mood of the music? Try playing the video back at different speeds. Is the change significant?

At 28:40, Amelia introduces her song 'Somebody Somewhere' with "here is a happy sounding song that I wrote about being depressed." Do you know any other artists that tackle challenging topics through happier-sounding music? How do you think singing about difficult topics effects the way we feel and talk about those topics? Why do you think Amelia chose this upbeat kind of music for a song about depression?

## CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES

- 0-1:09** Talking about music in Newfoundland vs. Canada as a whole
- 08:55** Amelia expressing her feelings about performing in such a historic place
- 22:25** Change in instrumental timbre



## ACTIVITY 1

At 9:45, the song “The Reverie” is played. If you look at the shots of the drummer, you will notice that instead of drumsticks, a fan type of stick is used. This musical tool is called a drum brush. They are used to produce a softer sound and to vary the type of sound coming from the drum. Instead of just hitting the drum, the musician can now swipe the drum creating a swooshing sound. If you have an instrument, see what you can do to dampen change the sound. If you do not, try tapping or swiping different objects on a table or chair to create percussion. How many different sounds can you make with the objects around you?

## ACTIVITY 2

Amelia wrote “The Mistress” in a day. In an interview, she stated that all these lyrics developing the character of “the mistress” were something she had felt. Think about your own life and create a character as the combination of your experiences. How did you feel when you were very young? How do you feel now? What are your hopes, dreams, and wishes? Create sections of lyrics based on these prompts and any more snippets of your life and pull them together to create the character and tell your story.

## ACTIVITY 3

Amelia’s album *Watershed* is a reflection of her efforts to reduce mental health stigma in the arts. It also features a call-out on gender tokenism and inequalities. Do you follow any social movements currently? Write a song to express how you feel about any movements in the world or any other world issues. How do you fit into them? What do you think should be done? You can reference activist music in your writing process.

## ACTIVITY 4

Amelia, like many other artists, uses similes and metaphor in her lyrics. This use is demonstrated clearly in the song “Blackbird on Fire.” Have a look at the lyrics to get an example of what you can do. For this activity, write a song starting with a metaphor or simile and continue to build off that with more metaphors and similes.



## STAFF INTERVIEW *Humphrey Siu, Finance Manager*

- *What is your role at Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

I am the Finance Manager and supervise a team of staff to provide financial-related support service to the other departments and make sure all the financial needs and transactional support are there while they are carrying out the business duties.

- *How did you get into the world of Finance?*

I studied Business Management in University and went on for the programs and trained as a Chartered Professional Accountant.

Tell us more about your education, career path, and interests?

Graduated with a business degree; trained and obtained by UK and HK designation in Deloitte Hong Kong before I moved into private sector. Enrolled and studied the Canadian CPA program when I decided to move to Canada ages ago. Obtained my Canadian CPA qualification within the two years after I moved to Canada. Worked in a North American wide wholesaler and retailer for the next twenty years and joined RTH about 11 years ago.

- *How were you involved in Amelia Curran Live at Massey Hall?*

My involvement in Amelia Curran Live is not much different than any other normal activities by the Hall. On top of providing the necessary operational support, I also acted as business advisor and worked with programming team to make sure we have a back office system to handle and measure the result of this new business program – Live at Massey Hall. Since this is a new program supported by OMF, there is a lot of admin supports required to make sure we issued sufficient reports including audited result to justify the funding we obtained.

- *Who do you work with at the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

Nobody can work as an island. Finance team practically need to work and interact with all areas and their staff members to ensure we function as intended.

- *What is some advice you have for someone interested in pursuing a career in Finance?*

Don't get discouraged by the social stereotype or intimidated by the challenges required for the professional designation. It will be an interesting career path for anyone with the right aptitude.

- *What is your favourite part of your job?*

Being able to provide assistance and advice to anticipate; solve and address business challenges.

- *What is your favourite memory of the Halls?*

The first time I stepped into Massey hall during my orientation tour on cash collection from Box Office and F&B.

