

The Speak Up! exhibition recognizes Andrea Menard, an accomplished Métis singer-songwriter, actor and playwright who incorporates much music into her creative output.

With family roots in Saint Laurent, Manitoba, one milestone in her career occurred in 1998, when she wrote, composed the music, and performed a one-woman musical entitled, “The Velvet Devil,” that depicted a 1940s jazz singer fleeing an abusive relationship. Her production blended jazz elements with storytelling and established her as an emerging Indigenous voice in Canadian theatre. The show was later adapted into a CBC film.

Let's take a listen to the jazz vocal sound of Andrea Menard with “The Velvet Devil.”

That was the “The Velvet Devil” by Andrea Menard from her play of the same name.

*The Velvet Devil* album also features the track “Call My Name,” which reached number two on the Indigenous Music Countdown chart. Andrea also performed the song at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in Toronto. This musical project garnered three awards at the awards show. In 2008, she received an Actor Award of Excellence recognizing her unique contributions to the performing arts.

Let's take a listen to Andrea Menard with an old school slap bass sound in her song entitled “Call My Name.”

That was “Call My Name” with some great whistling by Andrea Menard.

Andrea has dedicated well over two decades of sharing Métis stories. She's released five albums to date, including notable releases like *Simple Steps* in 2007, *Sparkle* in 2008, and *Lift* in 2014. Her music is often characterized as being narrative driven, with themes that bring about healing and deep reflections of Métis history, beliefs, and identity.

In 2007, she released *Simple Steps*, a collection of 12 original songs reflecting her experiences as a Métis woman and it's no surprise that the music blends jazz rhythms with themes of Métis heritage and resilience.

Here is a track from *Simple Steps* entitled “Métis Hands” by Andrea Menard. Right here at NMC's Speak Up! exhibition.

That was Andrea Menard with “Métis Hands,” here at NMC's Speak Up! exhibition.

Andrea's projects are often developed in consultation with Métis Elders and Language Keepers. One such project focuses on cultural preservation of the Michif language on her album *Anskoonamakew Lii Shansoon (Giveaway Songs)*, which contains 12 tracks that were developed over a year, where she traveled across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of British Columbia, to communities to consult with Métis Elders.

This is a Michif water prayer song, recorded to ensure it will be known for generations to come, by Andrea Menard.

That was a water prayer song by Andrea Menard, right here at the Speak Up! exhibition.

Andrea has earned 16 Canadian Music Awards throughout her career and was named Métis Artist of the Year at the Saskatchewan Indigenous Music Awards in 2025.

Her acting work has received five Gemini Award nominations. Her most recent touring play, in 2026, encompassed a Métis cabaret theme with 19 songs entitled, *Rubaboo*, derived from the Michif word for stew, which takes audiences on a musical and storytelling journey into the resilience and beauty of Métis culture.

Here is a track included in the play, *Rubaboo*, entitled “Sparkle” by Andrea Menard.

That was Andrea Menard with “Sparkle.”

It must be noted that Andrea is an advocate for exploring Indigenous empowerment, as well as the Sacred Feminine. She views all her work as a vital tool for healing and to bring about needed understanding. I've shared only some of the gifts that Andrea's career has offered, as she strives to make the world a better place than when she arrived.

Andrea Menard is recognized and honoured here at the Speak Up! exhibition.