

Press Release

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For immediate release

#### LOCAL RECORDING ARTIST FINALIST FOR NATIONAL AWARD

Marianne Novoselac has been shortlisted in a national writing competition for her song *God Can*.

Singer/song writer, author of *Praise: the Gateway to Miracles*, home-based consultant and mother of five, Marianne is also an itinerant minister. Her music and teaching help people receive hope and healing for victorious living. A graduate of the University of Waterloo, Marianne edits and regularly writes articles for the *Evangelical Christian Magazine*, Canada's largest circulation Christian magazine and is active at Queensway Cathedral in Etobicoke, where she sings in the Cathedral choir.

Raised in Cambridge, Ontario, in a large family of eleven children, Marianne has been passionate about music since she was a young child. Writing for over a decade and performing for twice that long locally and nationally, she began recording two years ago at The Jazz Kitchen, a home studio in Burlington, Ontario.

Marianne recently teamed up with producer Jerroll Lehman to record eleven of her contemporary Gospel songs, including *God Can*, at the prestigious Gaither Studios in Indiana, founded by Bill and Gloria Gaither, who were named "Christian Songwriters of the Century" by the American Society of Composers and Performers (ASCAP). Her new CD entitled *Presence* is available at [www.miraclepraise.com](http://www.miraclepraise.com).

Marianne's song *God Can*, expressing faith in God the Creator who heals broken hearts, is a finalist in the Song Lyrics category in The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards.

The winner will be announced on June 17 at a black-tie Awards Gala at World Vision's headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario, to which the public is invited. The Gala is the premier event honouring the work of Canadian writers who are Christian. It will be hosted by Herbie Kuhn, popular speaker and in-house announcer for the Toronto Raptors basketball team.

The contest received a record number of 237 entries from writers in eight provinces. The 30 award categories include non-fiction books, novels, articles, columns, poems and song lyrics.

"How exciting and rewarding to be shortlisted for this national award," Marianne

exclaimed. "From the initial inspiration to the final recording, *God Can* was worth the effort, especially when people unprompted explain how this song has given them hope in their own difficult situations."

The Word Guild, the organization that sponsors the awards, consists of more than 340 writers and editors across Canada who write from a Christian perspective and publish work in a variety of genres.

The Word Guild also sponsors Canada's largest Christian writers' conference, Write! Canada ([www.writecanada.org](http://www.writecanada.org)). After the Gala, 250 writers, editors, agents and publishers will meet in Guelph, Ont. from June 18 to 20 for professional development, networking and marketing opportunities.

Excerpts from the best-selling inspirational anthology *Hot Apple Cider* are shortlisted seven times in the contest. Noteworthy contestants include singer/songwriter Carolyn Arends of Surrey, B.C., who is a contender in five book and article categories. Donna Dawson of St. Marys, Ont., author of the suspense thriller *Vengeance*, is vying for best novel in two categories, as is male historical romance writer Shawn J. Pollett of Golden Valley, Ont. for *Christianus Sum* (translated, "I am a Christian"), a love story set during the Roman Empire.

Three leaders who founded innovative ministries to Canada's urban poor are candidates for major book awards: Tim Huff for *Bent Hope: a street journal*; Greg Paul for *The Twenty Piece Shuffle: Why the poor and rich need each other*; and Colin McCartney for *The Beautiful Disappointment: Discovering Who You Are Through the Trials of Life*.

The Leslie K. Tarr Award for career achievement, sponsored by Tyndale University College and Seminary, will be presented at the Gala to Ray Wiseman of Fergus, Ont., a newspaper columnist, biographer and novelist. Previous Tarr Award recipients include Governor General's Award winners poet Margaret Avison and novelist Rudy Wiebe.

To see the complete shortlist of finalists, or to obtain more information about the Gala or The Word Guild, visit [www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com) or telephone 519-886-4196.