MUSIC Exclusive

# CHANTAL KREVIAZUK AND RAINE MAIDA

## THE RECORDING STARS GET CANDID ABOUT THEIR MARRIAGE AS THEY MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME

Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida may have achieved musical fame but at home they're just like any other couple, desperately trying to balance work, family and giving back.

For the Canadian musicians – she's a Juno-winning, multi-platinum-selling singer, songwriter, pianist and actress and he's an accomplished songwriter, producer and lead singer of Our Lady Peace – there's always a lyric to pen, a concert to play or a plane to catch. And they pack it all in while being hands-on parents to sons Rowan, 15, Lucca, 13, and Sal, 10. Life is so hectic, in fact, that they've never had the chance to make music together.

Until now. The Order of Canada recipients have rebranded themselves as Moon vs. Sun for their first musical collaboration. The project includes an emotionally charged documentary called *I'm Going to Break Your Heart*, an album of the same name featuring music from the film, a spring tour and a couples-focused podcast. The film follows Chantal, 44, and Raine, 48, as they seclude themselves on a frigid remote island to work on their music and their marriage. In our exclusive interview, the L.A.-based couple, who've been married 19 years, talk openly about their therapeutic journey and why music is the tie that binds.

**What made you hightail it from warm California to Saint Pierre et Miquelon in the dead of winter?**

***Chantal:*** We had a great experience there one summer. Raine had a music festival appearance and I went. I was playing in it.

***Raine:*** Yup, I paid you to play. [*Laughs*]

***Chantal:*** We had such a really wonderful time. There were no kids. There were barely any people there. The pace was the pace of love, really slow and lovely. It's Europe, it's France. You know, great wine, great food. We decided we wanted to go back there. But the calculation was terrible because it was winter!

***Raine:*** It's an island. It's freezing. And it just never stops in the winter. It gets into your bones. As much as we love that island, in the film it's kind of like the villain.

**Why go so public with your marital struggles?** We could have easily edited out the personal stuff and just said, "Hey, this is [us] on this cool island making a record together." But a lot of those songs won't make sense without knowing the back story. That's what makes songs interesting. They don't just get pulled out of thin air. It takes a little bit of courage and a little bit of stress. I've always said I've never written a song in my life when I'm happy. Hopefully our kids watch it and they go into their relationships and understand that their parents were willing to do the work...

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***Chantal:*** ...and forgive each other.

***Raine:*** You couldn't really show this film, honestly, musically, without showing the process personally. They're so intrinsic. That's why I love the music so much. It has such meaning. Every song is an experience we shared during this journey.

**In the film, you tell your relationship coach that you "didn't do the work" while on the island.**

***Chantal:*** We're still doing the work. It's a daily attempt, for sure, of mastery... Sometimes, with Raine, I feel it flows and it's super-connected and it's perfect – and I don't know if we could write a song on those days!

***Raine:*** Probably not.

***Chantal:*** And there are other days when you're just trying to get back on the love track... I do think that we're actually getting better and better at it.

***Raine:*** The fact that we did it on film means nothing. But I love that it does kind of creep in to other parts of our life: parenting, even how I am with my band. What Chantal and I have given each other is this kind of toolbox that we can hopefully pull from.

***Chantal:*** When you're with somebody for a really long time, you grow. You're different planets. You can try to be one planet. You're a universe but you're two planets. In our case we're Moon vs. Sun. That's a tall order to keep orbiting one another.

**As you embark on this new stage together, what do you most admire about Raine?** I have a deep respect for Raine, that he's willing not only to do this work with me but also to do it in front of our kids, our families, our audience, the world. It takes an incredibly smart and centred, strong person. That's actually why I married Raine: he was smart, centred. On a really personal level – and I might cry [*Sighs and eyes well up*] – when we met, I was so into my thing and he was so into his thing. So to see him doing this, it's just adorable. I am just so honoured that my husband would bring me to work, to his work, and that he would come to my work and share in that experience... When people watch the film they're going to be demonizing this about him or this about me. But I don't really care because in my opinion, I married the most amazing human being. [*Tearful laugh*]

**And Raine, what's your favourite thing about Chantal?** Her ability to want to grow. She has a blind thirst to do better. Live the learning rather than just talk it. That's rare. She's an amazingly committed and focused mother, artist and partner. Deeper meaning and connection means everything to her and she has helped my personal realization immensely. I'm a better partner, parent and even artist because of her.

INTERVIEW: SUZANNE WINTROB

CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: KHAREN HILL; JAMES DEVANEY/GC IMAGES; CHRIS HASTON/NBCU/NBCU PHOTO BANK VIA GETTY IMAGES; JAMIE MCCARTHY; JMW; TARA WHITNEY

In the documentary *I'm Going to Break Your Heart* (above), Canadian singers Chantal and Raine (left, in 2012, with sons Sal, Rowan and Lucca) share an intimate look at the making of their debut album.

# THE TO-DO LIST

***HELLO!*'s pick of the week's events and new releases**

## MOVIE

**ISN'T IT ROMANTIC**

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the star-studded flick follows Natalie (funny lady Rebel Wilson), a New York City architect and skeptic of love who, after being knocked unconscious, wakes up to find herself in an alternate universe that has her playing the leading lady in a real-life romcom. Stuck in her worst nightmare, Natalie must fall in love before she can return to her normal life. Liam Hemsworth and Priyanka Chopra also star. (Feb. 14)

## TV

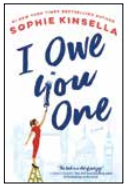
**WILL & GRACE**

After a short winter hiatus, your favourite foursome returns at a new time (9:30 p.m.) for the second half of Season 10. The first episode sees Will (Eric McCormack) and Jack (Sean Hayes) unknowingly taking a hallucinogenic drug, making them wonder if they might be one another's soulmates. Watch for a guest appearance by Chelsea Handler. (Jan. 31, Global)

## BOOK

**I OWE YOU ONE**

From Sophie Kinsella, the English author of the bestselling *Shopaholic* novels, comes a new romance novel that follows two strangers, Fixie and Seb, who meet in a coffee shop and get caught up in a series of "I owe you's" – some big, some small and some that are completely life changing. "I love to write flawed heroines, and Fixie is a girl who can't stop 'fixing' things, sometimes with disastrous results," says mother of five Sophie. "But as the book goes on, she starts to see how she might fix things for herself, not just others."




## AWARDS

**61ST ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS**

Music greats gather to celebrate their peers, including Pink, whose *Beautiful Trauma* is up for Best Pop Vocal Album, and Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, whose single "Shallow" is up for four prizes. Miley Cyrus and Shawn Mendes are set to perform, while 15-time Grammy-winner Alicia Keys will host. (Feb. 10, City)