

ANN MORTIFEE BIOGRAPHY

Ann Mortifee was born in South Africa and spent her early years on a sugarcane farm in Zululand. She moved to Canada as a girl, where, on a dare from the girls at school, she began her singing career in a local Vancouver coffeehouse with the legendary Josh White Sr. Shortly thereafter, she was hired as the singer in George Ryga's play "The Ecstasy of Rita Joe." When the Royal Winnipeg Ballet commissioned the play as a ballet, Ann composed and performed the music. The ballet became an international hit almost over night. It was here that she recognized the power of the arts to influence social awareness and change.

Ann has been recognized as one of Canada's most unique and passionate performing artists. With her extraordinary four-octave voice, she has performed in solo concerts and with symphony orchestras throughout the world, as well in concert with such artists as Harry Belafonte, Michel Legrande, John Denver, Ramsey Lewis, Bobby McFerrin, Paul Horn and Chief Dan George.

As a workshop facilitator or keynote speaker, she creates a healing experience that awakens creativity, passion and aliveness in those who come to share in her gifts. Her work with the voice is unique and transformative. Her work in women's issues, the environment, death and dying and the arts is rich and insightful. Her 10 albums, five full-length musicals, one-woman shows, ballets, workshops and keynote addresses have won her many awards including the prestigious Order of Canada.

With her brother, Dr. Peter Mortifee, Ann co-founded The Somerset Foundation devoted to exploring ways in which strategic philanthropy can help to support social change. She also co-founded and now chairs The Trust for Sustainable Forestry, a social enterprise between a charity and a for-profit corporation devoted to establishing eco-system based forestry as a means to protect forests and reinvigorate local economies.

She has travelled the world, worked with the dying, spent time with the head Sangoma of the Zulu Nation, and worked in Calcutta with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Mercy to name just a few of her adventures. The whole body of her work deals with the mystery, difficulty and extraordinary opportunity of what it means to be a human being.

Her most recent literary endeavor is In Love with the Mystery (Eskova Enterprises Ltd.). Many years prior, she began a practice of awakening each morning at sunrise. During the hours of quiet, she developed a fertile stillness that has led to an ever-deepening awareness. This past year, Ann began to record those thoughts in her journal. From these evocative and inspired messages this book emerged.

Every passage in the book is a testimony to her commitment to this deep listening. Her works evoke a quickening through which we, too, awaken more fully to the gifts in ourselves. And in the companion CD she recorded with her husband Paul Horn, the musical and narrative offering is a marriage of two visionary souls traveling together -- an added gift to be experienced alone or in union with the book.

For more on Ann Mortifee, please visit her website at <http://annmortifee.com>