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Love takes Voisine higher

Singer has new CD, tour and December wedding

By [Andrea Nemetz](#) / Entertainment Reporter
Contributed

IRONICALLY, while Roch Voisine's new single *By Myself* is filling the airwaves, the singer-songwriter is planning his wedding.

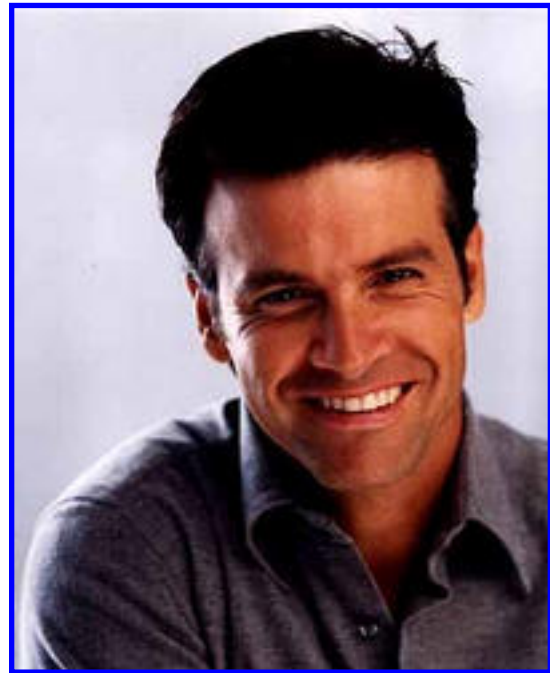
The 39-year-old Voisine, who vaulted to fame on both sides of the Atlantic in 1989 with his three-million-selling debut album *Hélène*, is marrying Myriam St. Jean on Dec. 21 in Montreal.

"I was always told when you find the right one you'll know, but I was never so sure," he said by phone, from his apartment in Montreal. He owns another apartment in London, England, because he has been dividing his time between Europe and Canada for the last few years.

"I thought it had to be complicated, that you had to give it time, like I've done many times before. But when you do meet the right person, you know right away. You don't have to give it two weeks; if you have to give it too much thought it's not right."

Voisine, who met his "amazing" fiancée through friends in a "very ordinary, casual way at the beginning of the summer," says being in love is an amazing feeling.

"I'm transformed, I wish everyone, everywhere



Two-time Juno Award-winner Roch Voisine will play an acoustic show at Halifax's Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Thursday at 8 p.m., mixing tunes from his upcoming CD *Higher*, with all-time favourites.

MEET ROCH VOISINE

This is your chance to win a pair of front-row tickets to Roch Voisine's concert at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in Halifax, 8 p.m. Thursday. The lucky winner and a guest will also have a chance to meet Roch Voisine backstage after the concert and win a copy of his upcoming CD, *Higher*.

could be this happy," says the two-time Juno Award winner, who also starred in the CBC-TV series *He Shoots, He Scores* in 1989.

Getting married, however, is very complicated, especially if you want to please everyone around you, he continues.

And it becomes even more complicated if, like Voisine, you're going to Europe twice and giving 13 concerts throughout Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the two-and-a-half months preceding the wedding.

Voisine, who was born in Saint-Basile, N.B., and moved to Montreal when he was nine, begins a fall tour coinciding with the release of his fourth, all-English album, *Higher*, on Oct. 21 in Fredericton.

He plays Halifax's Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Thursday at 8 p.m. and promises the 22-song show will be a mix of his greatest hits and songs from the new disc, due in stores Nov. 19.

"There will be about five or six of the new songs and it will be an unplugged concert with a small band, just five on stage," he says.

"There will be three very good singers and it will be vocally stunning. I'm planning to include a few of my folksongs."

When Voisine released Christmas albums in English and French two years ago (*Christmas is Calling* and *L'Album de Noel*, respectively), he did a Christmas tour in which he opened the concerts with a 40-minute acoustic show, before changing outfits and musical styles for a more amped-up main event.

"Many people preferred (the acoustic portion) to the rest of the concert, so this time around we've downsized the rooms. The quality of entertainment is so much better with the small rooms, there's better communication with the public," he says.

This concert is in English, though the bilingual singer, who speaks without a trace of the accent, sings two numbers in French.

To enter, please phone the Herald-Line at 425-2255 and press code 9466 (WINN). Long-distance charges may apply.

After correctly answering a skill-testing question, contestants must leave their name, address and phone number for a computerized random draw.

The winner will be contacted by phone and their name will appear in this Thursday's entertainment guide.

Contest deadline is noon Monday.

Prizes are courtesy of BMG Music Canada and the Herald-Line.

The new English album is long overdue, Voisine says, noting his last English album, *Kissing Rain*, was released in 1997.

"It was supposed to be here earlier, but we decided to do another French album instead."

In 1999, he released *Chaque Feu*. His eponymous album *Roch Voisine*, released a year ago, is still going strong. While in France promoting his self-titled album before the Canadian tour, he'll also prepare a duet with Australian singer Tina Arena.

Higher was recorded in England, Montreal, California and Vancouver. Voisine wrote the songs over two-and-a-half years.

"It's well-balanced, it's got a few good up-tempo songs and a few about some pretty interesting things like *Tears in My Coffee*, which is about trash TV. There's a song about love on the Internet called *Virtual Cowboys* and there are lots of positive titles like *Don't Give Up*. Musically it's very rich," says Voisine, who in 1992 became the youngest performer to be made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government (he was also made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1997).

By Myself, the first single, talks about being on your own.

"It's a break-up story," he concedes, "but we're all fundamentally alone with each other. It's a ballad that can cross over with rock guitars and attitude, clever lyrics and melodies. I think it's a good choice for the first single."

But *By Myself* isn't the song he feels like singing these days, the one he wants to sing is *Myriam's Song* or, as he jokes, the "Will You Be My Wife" song, the song he wrote asking her to marry him.

"We may put it on the album as a last-minute add-on," he says, noting he'll definitely close his concert with the heartfelt love song.

And don't worry about his wedding plans - Voisine and St. Jean have hired a wedding planner and he'll keep in touch by phone and e-mail to ensure that the "wonderful, beautiful woman" he's marrying will be happy on the most important day of her life.

Tickets for the Halifax show are \$45.50 and \$40.50 at the Dalhousie Arts Centre box office, 494-3820 or 1-800-874-1699.