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(Nova Scotia, Canada/Raleigh North Carolina) Val Denn Agency welcomes new client Kaia Kater to the Val Denn Agency roster for bookings in Canada. We are excited to work with Kaia and look forward to watching her grow her Canadian audience like she has in the US.

The new album from young African-Canadian roots phenom Kaia Kater couldn't come at a better time. As a new generation takes the reins, American roots music is needed more than ever to remind us of the troubled pathways of our own history. Born of African-Caribbean descent in Québec, Kaia Kater grew up between two worlds: one her family's deep ties to Canadian folk music in her Toronto home; the other the years she spent learning and studying Appalachian music in West Virginia. Her acclaimed debut album Sorrow Bound (May 2015) touched on this divide, but her new album, Nine Pin (May 2016), delves even further, and casts an unflinching eye at the realities faced by people of colour in North America every day. Her songs on the new album are fueled by her rich low tenor vocals, jazz-influenced instrumentation, and beautifully understated banjo, and they've got as much in common with Kendrick Lamar right now as they do with Pete Seeger.

"...One of the most remarkable Canadian folk records in some time ... Kater's music is somehow ancient and brand new at the same time." — Tom Power, CBC Radio 2

"...plaintive, mesmerizing ... writes and performs with the skill of a folk-circuit veteran..." — Rolling Stone

"A star in the making..." — Folk Alley



"RISING DOWN"



"SAINT ELIZABETH"



"FINE TIMES AT OUR HOUSE"



"SOUTHERN GIRL"

<https://youtu.be/JuG9Xh5FUw8> Rising Down

<https://youtu.be/RmfGOYg3rPA> Saint Elizabeth

https://youtu.be/MMAyOcKHx_I Fine Times at our House

<https://youtu.be/IsoOu9uiDSY> Southern Girl

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2016 CFMA Award Winner and NPR Music Best of 2016

"Innovative and forward thinking banjo-picking artist Kaia Kater, now a resident of Toronto, was awarded The Oliver Schroer Pushing The Boundaries Award for her album Nine Pin."

—CFMA

Rolling Stone

**10 New Country Artists
You Need To Know: May 2016**



We also want to congratulate Kaia Kater on her 2016 Canadian Folk Music Award. [Kaia Kater](#) was awarded the Oliver Schroer Pushing The Boundaries Award, celebrating innovation and creativity in new folk sounds, for her album, *Nine Pin*. The award was presented at the [Canadian Folk Music Awards](#) gala awards at the Isabel Bader Theatre in Toronto, on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

For Kaia Kater, this award is the culmination of a wave of critical recognition, North American radio charting success and international touring. Since her May 2016 release of *Nine Pin*, produced by Chris Bartos, Kaia has been touted by [Rolling Stone](#) as an 'artist you need to know', appeared on [Live From Mountain Stage](#), charted with Americana radio DJs and most recently was featured in UK music magazine [Uncut](#). Born in Montreal, Kaia has lived in Winnipeg, Wakefield and, most recently, West Virginia, and now resides in Toronto. Her old-time banjo-picking skills, deft arrangements, and songwriting abilities have landed her in the spotlight of both traditional and contemporary folk and americana tastemakers.

Kaia song "Paradise Fell" was also named 10 Songs NPR can't stop playing in their Best of 2016 for airplay.

If anything can truly capture the highs and lows of living in Appalachia, it's music. Artists like [Gillian Welch](#) and [Rhiannon Giddens](#) have proven this time and time again, and 22-year-old Kaia Kater is poised to do the same with her new album, *Nine Pin*. A Quebecker with the heart of an Appalachian, Kater grew up among old-time musicians and eventually moved to West Virginia to enrich her musical and cultural education. As she told West Virginia Public Broadcasting in a [recent interview](#), "I wouldn't be the same artist, I wouldn't release the same music, if I hadn't spent these last four years [with Davis & Elkins College's Appalachian Ensemble]. Because I knew old-time music and I was good at playing tunes, but I don't think I understood the communities behind the music or the stories behind the music. And that takes time." Now equipped with both sentiment and song, Kater brings a new spirit to old roots in tunes like "Paradise Fell," showing the world that Appalachia can be just as wild as it is wonderful.

Vist Kaia Kater's Website: <http://www.kaiakater.com/>

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