

Women Unlimited –
 Concert Production Company founded by Pauline Bélanger
 March 1986 – March 1996

Written by Sheryl Ackerman
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 (Documents include 2 photos and 2 posters)

Pauline Bélanger founded the company “Women Unlimited” on March 01, 1986 to produce concerts and promote music by women and lesbian performers. Audience members may also remember her hilarious comedic sketches as she introduced the shows. She brazenly included her partner (now spouse), Sheryl Ackerman, in many of the warm-up acts!

There were very few openly lesbian performers in Canada in those days, Heather Bishop being one of the first. Pauline produced several concerts for Heather.

A memorable event occurred March 11, 1987 at the Edmonton Public Library Theatre. During Heather Bishop’s performance with Kris Purdy, Marilyn Lerner and Sherry Shute, the audience was surprised when kd lang leapt onto the stage to perform spontaneously with Heather. Would it be accurate to say the crowd went wild?!

Here are some of the events Pauline created through her company, Women Unlimited, with help from her trusty sidekick, Sheryl Ackerman:

Date	Main event	Warm-up	Venue	Notes
Mar 14, 1986	Heather Bishop with Tracy Riley	Peggy Ward	SUB Theatre	Fundraiser for Common Woman Books
Oct 18, 1986	Kris Purdy	Sue McGowan	Edmonton Public Library Theatre	Kris toured with Heather Bishop starting in 1987
Mar 11, 1987	Heather Bishop with Kris Purdy. Also Sherry Shute & Marilyn Lerner	Sue McGowan and Sheryl Ackerman	Edmonton Public Library Theatre	Joined spontaneously by k.d. lang

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Date	Main event	Warm-up	Venue	Notes
May 2, 1987	Karen Howe & Tracy Riley	Mavis J. Averill	Edmonton Public Library Theatre	Tracy did a fabulous harmonica-filled rendition of "Wild Women Don't Get the Blues!" with Sheryl Ackerman joining her on bass
Apr 01, 1989	Heather Bishop	Karen Howe with Sheryl Ackerman	Provincial Museum of Alberta	
Mar 6, 1992	Heather Bishop	Comfortable Shoes	Provincial Museum of Alberta	Comfortable Shoes: Kathy daSilva and Dorothy Henneveld. Attendance over 300 people
Oct 24, 1993	Heather Bishop		Edmonton Public Library Theatre	
Final concert Mar 16, 1996	Judy Small & EVM (Edmonton Vocal Minority)		Garneau Theatre	Judy Small was from Australian

Founder of Women Unlimited, Pauline Bélanger



Pauline Bélanger - M.C. at Heather Bishop Concert - March 11, 1987

Photo by Sheryl Ackerman



k.d. lang joins Heather Bishop, Sherry Shute and Kris Purdy onstage
March 11, 1987 Edmonton Public Library Theatre

Concert produced by Women Unlimited (Pauline Bélanger)
Photo by Sheryl Ackerman

Poster for Heather Bishop Concert – March 11, 1987
Poster mock-up by Sheryl Ackerman (photo from PR kit courtesy of Heather Bishop).



HEATHER BISHOP IN CONCERT

WITH KRIS PURDY

ALSO SHERRY SHUTE & MARILYN LERNER

MARCH 11 8:00 PM \$10

EDMONTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WARM UP: SUE MCGOWAN WITH SHERYL ACKERMAN ON BASS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT COMMON WOMAN BOOKS

Poster 1987



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