

LIVING CURIOUSLY Disc Review...

By STEVE SIEGEL

Special to the Morning Call 9/8/07

Pop-Rock/Folk-Rock

It's no wonder Christy Jefferson was able to sing her way out of a speeding ticket, as the press release accompanying "Living Curiously" claims. The fourth CD of this Coopersburg-born singer/songwriter, on her own record label, is a testament not only to her chameleonic range of vocal color, but her playful, often whimsical lyrics and her competent guitar and piano playing.

Jefferson, a Kutztown University graduate, covers a range of styles, from pop-rock to folk-rock to blues, and does it all with a voice that is lush but never heavy, sweet but never cloying. Her voice affects a feathery, sensual edge in the bluesy "Air I Breath," perfectly complemented by her honky-tonk piano work. It becomes hauntingly exotic in the ballad "Lost All Sweetness," and whisperingly sexy in the cabaret-like "Lipstick Tease."

Her lyrics are clever and contemplative - "Meghan's Pet Bee" is a dark, bizarre ballad evocative of Hendrix' "Hey Joe" - but can also be quite serious, as in "Dance Everyday," a soulful tribute to a lost friend, or the folk-rock "Love Song for the Human Race," written upon her brother's safe return from Iraq.

There's some great work by her back-up band: Adam Clymer's electric guitar in the pop-rock "Natural" recalls classic Stones riffs, and Mel Rake's drums on "Lost All Sweetness" have the provocative complexity of Indian tabla. But in every track, Jefferson's rich vocals are the real star.

Christy Jefferson will give a CD release performance 8 p.m. Sept. 22 at Wired Gallery & Café, 520 Main Street, Bethlehem, 610-317-8010.