

April '05: Quirky And Eclectic Christy Jefferson Lives For The Music  
by **Beth Zuber for MergeDigital.com**

A deceased snail, a talking fly in a cow pasture, an addiction to coffee - all of these random thoughts may sound like a lot of nonsense to you but not to Christy Jefferson. It's the quirky and fun things in life that inspire this eclectic singer, songwriter and musician.

Musically, artists such as Tori Amos, Counting Crows, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel and Ben Folds are her influences. But, in general, Christy's music is impacted by her wild imagination and her love of whimsy. Her capricious compositions show off the lighter side of life and incorporate Christy's own experiences with a bit of embellishment.

"When I compose I try to paint different pictures, " said Christy. "I like to create a mood and an environment in my songs that people can relate to."

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Christy knew music was her calling from a very young age. She played outside a lot and remembers singing in the woods near her house all the time. Throughout her elementary and high school years, she sang in bands and dabbled in composing tunes, but the real turning point of her life with music came when she was in France with her sister.

One night she and her sister were just hanging out in their room. Her sister was writing a poem and Christy decided to borrow a guitar from one of the French kids they were traveling with at the time. She wrote music to go along with her sister's lyrics and played it for her. After Christy was done playing her sister bolted out of the room. She came back a few minutes later with 20 people. Christy sang and played them her song. Her first audience was captivated by her performance.

"This was a pivotal event in my life, " said Christy. "As I was playing for these people everything kind of came to the surface from my subconscious. I knew this was meant to be."

Christy's sophomore album, following her 2002 solo release Perspectives, Confessions and Amendments, was a self-described "spur of the moment kinda thing." Her newest release, Live in Philly, all fell in to place during a routine post-performance sound check at Philadelphia's Tin Angel last December. Upon arriving to her gig Christy and her partner in crime Jolene set up for their performance. Christy, who plays the guitar and piano, is frequently seen performing with Jolene, who backs her up on harmony, harmonica and percussion. They asked the sound technician to record a bit of their warm up. He played it back, it sounded great, and Christy asked him to record the entire show. From here, Live in Philly was born. "I am so thrilled with the way this CD turned out. It has such great energy," said Christy.