

## STREET SCENE

## Area singer gets national raves

The Detroit Music Awards' reigning "Best Acoustic Vocalist" has released an album that's bound to push her further into the spotlight.

Jan Krist has already received a rave review from *Dirty Linen Magazine* and *Billboard Magazine's* Bob Darden described "Curious" as "music that matters from an artist with a soul the size of the Pontiac Silverdome. She writes incredibly insightful lyrics. Her music lifts and sings and dances and lives. Her voice touches something deep inside me."

The nation is just now learning what Detroit-area residents already know — that Krist is a star on the rise.

Recording "Curious," the latest release on Nashville's Silent Planet Records, was a totally different experience for Krist. Her first two albums "Decapitated Society," which is going to be released under the name "Someone," and "Wing and a Prayer" were recorded with friends on a shoestring budget.

For this one Krist recruited producers Jim Dickinson (Ry Cooder, Texas Tornados, The Spin Doctors, Rolling Stones), and Newton Carter (Vigilantes of Love, Billy Pilgrim) to help her out.

"I actually had more than \$2,000 to do a record with," said Krist, a Royal Oak resident. "The first two records I did really cheaply at home with all Detroiters on them. The third one I did in Georgia and I used people who play with Vigilantes of Love."

"I think it's like anything else. You can make a really fine folk record for a small amount of money and you don't have to worry about production as much, but if you want to involve other kinds of instrumentation and do more of a band-oriented record you really need good a better studio and you need good engineers," said Krist who considers herself to be more of a singer/songwriter than a folk musician.

Among the guest artists on the album are former Vigilantes David Labrevre on bass and Wayne McNabb, who now plays *Wipe Better Than Earn*, on drums. "Curious" also features the work of keyboardist Randall Brynlett (Traffic, Steve Winwood, Sea Level), and engineer Don McCollister (Indigo Girls).

Like most artists, Krist began her career singing in bars "and things like that for a couple of years. I've been playing at the Ark and different coffeehouses and concert clubs for about six years." She moved on to show-cases, venues on the advice of a friend.

"An old friend of mine said to me that playing in a bar was like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic, and I thought it was really true."

Krist captured the critics'

hearts with her first record, "Decapitated Society," which was released in 1993. *Billboard's* Darden made it *Critics' Choice* for 1993. Her 1995 follow-up "Wing and a Prayer" got a spotlight review in the magazine. Part of her success is due to her vivid songwriting.

"I think that I think better on paper and so I've always had this habit of writing things out, journaling. Usually I'll just have one thought that kind of catches me if I'm listening to the radio or listening to the news — I listen to NPR (National Public Radio) quite a bit — or I'll be driving down the street and I'll see something that looks really odd," Krist explained.

"Like the other day I was listening to something and what the person said created an image in my mind of somebody casting, skipping their soul across the water like a pebble. So I'll get this image in my head then I'll try to paint that out in words. Usually it's a very visual thing. I see an image in my mind and I try to relate that lyrically."

"Curious" is a much more hopeful album than the previous two, thanks in part, she said, to her recent marriage to Alan Finkbeiner, the drummer in her band.

"Falling in love" was certainly inspirational, she said. "Some of the songs like 'Mercy' is about that, and so are some of the other songs. This record is a little more hopeful than my other records were."

Jan Krist celebrates the release of "Curious" with performance 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at the Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$9; \$8 members, students, seniors. For more information, call (313) 761-1451.

Miser: Speaking of Better Than Ezra, McNabb and his band will perform at Clutch Cargo's, formerly the Sanctum, on Saturday, Nov. 9, in support of their major-label debut "Friction, Baby." Tickets for the all-ages show, which also features Satchel and James Hall, are \$12.50 in advance. Doors open early at 5:30 p.m. The club is located at 65 E. Huron St. in Pontiac. For more information, call (810) 229-2368. Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise has hit the road with God Street Wine. The tour will take them to California, Utah, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, and Detroit's St. Andrew's Hall on Thursday, Nov. 14. For more information about the Andrew's show, call (313) 961-MELT.

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco, you can write to her *elo The Observer & Eccentric*, Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, or via e-mail at cfuoco@aol.com. You can also leave a message for her by calling (313) 953-2047, mail-box 2130 on a Touch-Tone phone.



Celebrating release: The Detroit Music Awards' reigning "Best Acoustic Vocalist" Jan Krist celebrates the release of her latest CD "Curious" (Silent Planet).

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