

May 13, 2006 — The Morning Call

Album Review by Rosemary Pratkanis

"...Jefferson's style is lush yet folksy, colored with a touch of art-rock that brings to mind a more accessible Jane Siberry or Kate Bush. Her songs are whimsical, sweet pop.... "Crossing Kisses," for example, is about falling in love at a wine tasting. She sounds blissful as she sings, "rows and rows of grapes for wines turn kisses into love." References to kisses abound, including in the disc's title and on the opener, "Little Kiss." ...Besides the sweetness of her voice, Jefferson's piano playing, particularly on "Jonathan Waiting," is compelling and pleasing to hear.

The prize-winning "Comin' Round" also is included on "Prisoners," and the uplifting song seems to mirror Jefferson's musical hopes as she sings: "I'm ready now for my turn to shine."

April 5, 2006 — Trend Magazine

'Harmonious Kisses' ... a Feature by Melissa Yerkov

"Doylestown resident Christy Jefferson is proud to release her third album entitled *When Kisses Take Prisoners*. She has embraced the cutthroat perceptions of the business and overcame obstacles such as nearly fatal car accidents, having all her equipment stolen and studio shut-downs. Yet, every time Jefferson was knocked down, she bounced back stronger, with a smile on her face and guitar in her hands. Jefferson... describes her music as 'folk rock with a little bit of cabaret. And when playing with the band, 'we adapt an edge of blues.'....

Understanding this is an extremely difficult industry to enter, Jefferson gave herself a six-month deadline after graduation. This time was allotted to generate enough money for living expenses as well as business expenditures. Determined and excited, Jefferson sent out over 100 press kits in six months, trying to maintain a positive outlook. 'I was very persistent with my pursuit,' said Jefferson. 'You have to get through the no's to get to the yes.' Continuously sending out media information, networking and performing as often as possible, Jefferson's embracing sounds quickly generated a loyal fan base.

'I love performing live because I am totally in the soul of the song and the audience is right there with me,' said Jefferson. 'There's an energy exchange. It's a shared experience.' These feelings are shared by her fans, who continue to return the love and loyalty Jefferson exhibits. She attributes this support to helping her overcome one of the hardest experiences of her career. In February 2004, Jefferson ventured to the CBGB Club in NYC for a live performance. Before the show...her keyboard and guitar were stolen. Confused and devastated by the situation...She did not have the money to replace the items and questioned the troubling incident as a sign that she was not meant to play music.

After Jefferson spent days questioning her career, a good friend convinced her to write an email to everyone on her mailing list, explaining the situation and asking for help. The response was incredible. Countless emails were returned, sharing similar stories, offering help and even donating money, and within three days, Jefferson was able to replace all of the stolen equipment. 'It really helped the healing process to know I wasn't alone and these types of things happen all the time,' said Jefferson. '... My fans were able to take something ugly and make it one of the most beautiful things that has ever happened to me.' Jefferson soon wrote a song, 'Comin' Round,' about the experience, which later won first place in the Musselman Triathlon CD Compilation Competition — a contest open to more than 30,000 contestants.

... Jefferson strives to take situations such as this and format them into her songs. Other lyrics can be attributed to her crazy imagination and looking deeper into everyday situations. One perfect example of Jefferson's imaginative powers can be heard in 'Speedy,' a track from her *Live in Philly* album. The inspiration for 'Speedy' came from a friend with a pet fish. She had gotten two snails to eat the algae from the fishbowl and named one of them Speedy. After arriving home from work, Jefferson's friend found Speedy on the floor half way between the fishbowl and the door. Looking further into the situation, Jefferson's mind wandered — suicide or bravery? 'You see, Speed's fishbowl was eye level to the window, where he had a beautiful view of the green trees and the blue skies of the world outside his fishbowl home,' explained Jefferson. So her enticing question after evaluating Speedy's death — would you risk your life for freedom? It takes a wild imagination and pure soul to be able to transform the death of a snail into a mind exploration evaluating freedom. And this is just an example of Jefferson's creativity. Speedy can be found on Jefferson's *Live in Philly*, which is a recording of her performance at the Tin Angel in December 2004. Although the CD release for *Live in Philly* was an overwhelming success, while driving to the CD release, a run-in with an 18-wheeler truck on the turnpike nearly took the life of the singer/songwriter.

'I still can't believe I walked out of it alive,' said Jefferson. 'I saw the whole thing in slow motion. An eighteen-wheeler hit a car, sending it three lanes over directly into me. I hit my brakes and the car slammed into me on the driver's side door. There was heavy traffic at the time. I really thought I was going to die.' Miraculously, Jefferson suffered only minor injuries and shockingly still made it to her performance. Her arrival may have been late, but the near-death experience and adrenaline rush of surviving illuminated an indescribably energy to the show. Jefferson likes to view all these life experiences as signs; There are reasons behind these encounters, and she strives to develop a comprehension for their purpose.

... Jefferson is ecstatic that her three-year project (*the new album*) is finally perfectly completed. With studios being shut down, recorded tapes getting eaten and time running out, the project was arduous, but according to Jefferson, it was completely worth every minute. 'I have grown tremendously throughout the album,' said Jefferson. 'I learned to overcome weaknesses and maximize strengths.' The overall theme of Jefferson's newest release is 'Kisses,' which can be widely attributed to her love for a painting composed by artist Gustav Klimt entitled, *The Kiss*. 'It is my favorite painting and the theme unifies the whole album,' said Jefferson. 'Kisses are poetic, and the ones mentioned in my songs symbolize different things.'

Overcoming many tribulations that would discourage most musicians, Jefferson has become stronger and enlightened by the bumps in her road. With the motivations of spreading her beloved sound, she has continued to persevere with a determination to spread entertainment and guidance. 'Music is a multidimensional experience for me,' said Jefferson. 'I want my music to help make people's lives more beautiful and spread understanding.'"



CHRISTY JEFFERSON PRESS n QUOTE PAGE

April 6, 2006 — The Intelligencer

'Unfailing Optimism' ... *a Feature by Naila Francis*

"...The album is a lush pop-rock collection, with Jefferson, whose soaring, expressive voice sidles from smoky sultriness to ethereal dreaminess, as a chameleonic songstress — a gamin confidently plying her charms one minute, an uncertain, tortured would-be lover the next."

February, 23, 2006 — The Keystone (official Kutztown University Newspaper)

'Christy Jefferson, Dining Hall Superstar' ... *a Performance Review by Krissy Scatton*

"...Jefferson, a folk-pop singer whose whispery soprano voice and piano stylings are reminiscent of Tori Amos and Dar Williams, performed a two-hour set that included tracks off her two albums, *Live from Philly* and a self-titled release, as well as covers of such off-beat classics as 'Come On, Eileen.'She put on a solid show.... The Coopersburg, Pa. native deftly switched between styles and instruments, from bluesy folk-rock guitar to delicate pop piano ballads, and even threw in some cabaret-esque music, just for fun.

'I like her style,' said Nick Forte, a freshman Music Education major who stopped to listen while leaving the Galleria. 'She has good stage presence....' Jefferson, who said she has been singing her whole life, performed as if she was playing to a sold-out audience—something she may soon have to get used to....

Among those who were enjoying the music with their meal was Ryan Farrell, a sophomore Business major. 'She's one of the better people up there,' said Farrell. Sam Skiles, a sophomore Art Education major agreed, saying, 'She's got a great voice....' Ultimately, Jefferson has big plans that will take her far away from KU's South Dining Hall.... For Christy Jefferson, her talent and style make boundaries ephemeral and possibilities unlimited. Today, the South Dining Hall. Tomorrow, the world?"

November 20, 2002 — Dar Williams (singer/songwriter)

(*Commenting on Christy's first album: "Perspectives, Confessions, and Amendments"*)

"...a lovely voice and a wonderful sense of melody, especially in...arrangements...."

May 2003 — The Morning Call

'Get Into The Act' ... *a spotlight by Tony Sienzant*

"With a hauntingly sweet vocal range that spans octaves, long, rusty-blond hair and heartfelt tunes performed on piano or acoustic guitar, ...Christy Jefferson may be the next generation's answer to Joni Mitchell. ...Extensive journeying brings a true cosmopolitan flavor to her compositions, which demonstrate a lyrical maturity. Her mellow songs may be infectious and easy on the ear, but their intellectual content give sophisticated urbane listeners something meaty.

Her prior experience ...collaborating with notable musicians (Scott Simon from *Our Daughter's Wedding*, which toured with U2; Blue Oyster Cult's lead guitarist Buck Dharma) give her an edge over the other solo acts.... 'I'm just living and breathing music,' she beams."