

kristi martel avant-soul piano diva



kristi martel www.kmetal.net photo by johannah hetherington

"Kristi Martel loves life, and the joy she gets out of it exudes from her every pore. She can be singing about the darkest things in the world - betrayal, self-hate, death - and yet somehow, coming from her, it feels hopeful and uplifting." - Motif Magazine

When **Kristi Martel** was three she sang to salt and pepper shakers atop tables in restaurants. Her family encouraged her to do this. Everyone in the restaurant would clap. So she kept singing and making up harmonies and began piano lessons with an intense desire to become a famous musician.

Today, Kristi Martel's sweet presence, stunning vocals, intricate piano rhythms, and fearless songwriting endear audiences nationwide.

"...love emanates from every note." - Vienna Teng

"...a fine musician...Incomparable!" - Utah Phillips

Featured on MTV/LOGO, NPR, WERS, and in Curve Magazine, and voted Rhode Island's Best Alt-Rock Female Vocalist, award-winning songwriter and avant-soul piano diva Kristi Martel grew up in New England and left in 1990 to earn an ASCAP grant and two music degrees (Bard and Mills College) before beginning her touring and recording career.

Kristi's **piano** playing combines her love of blues dissonance and syncopation with her classical training. Her **voice** is at once sweet and bitter, able to leap and soar, whisper and rattle, expressive of any emotion she chooses and fluid throughout her range. She is visionary in her **lyrics** and **composition**, writing her prayers and quirky autobiographical narratives in the same breath.

Through **Sealed Lip Records**, Kristi has released seven CDs. "Ravengirl" is Kristi's goofy joke superhero name for herself, her recognition of the crazy blessing it is that she felt joy everyday, amidst the profound grief, after her former life partner's suicide in 2003. This newest album is full up with that joy, with the healing and transformation Kristi has undergone to be singing still so powerfully today.

Kristi has just recorded demos for her next full-length CD, "Sacred Whore." The work is more jazz and soul, and focuses on the universal in our human experience and our need for inner and world peace.

VENUES

Kristi tours nationally in clubs, colleges, festivals, and house concerts:

Webster Hall, The Knitting Factory, PS 122, CB's Gallery NYC
Nietzsche's, Roxy's Greenroom Buffalo NY
University of New Hampshire, Star Island NH
2004 Boston Pride, Club Passim, Lizard Lounge, Boston MA
Blackstone River Theatre, Stone Soup, Hi Hat Providence RI
World Cafe Live Philadelphia PA
Temple Ball DeLaLuz Performance Space Carrboro NC
Bosendorfer Hall Raleigh NC
Crazy Wisdom Ann Arbor MI
Abundance Ecovillage, Cafe Paradiso Fairfield IA
Alley Cantina, Eske's, Taos Inn Taos NM
OUToberFEST at Reid Park-DeMeester Center Tucson AZ
Seattle Art Museum Seattle WA
Mississippi Pizza Pub, Portland State University Portland OR
Cafe Paradiso Eugene OR
Southern Oregon University Ahlsand OR
Hopland Women's Festival Hopland CA
Rose Street House of Music, Blake's Berkeley CA
The Nameless Oakland CA
Yoshi's SF, Bazaar Cafe, Kimo's San Francisco CA
Cayuga Vault, UCSC Santa Cruz CA
Genghis Cohen, The Cat Club Los Angeles CA
Twiggs, Claire de Lune's, UCSD San Diego CA

PERFORMED WITH

Margie Adam, Alix Dobkin, Cliff Eberhardt, Melissa Ferrick, Ferron, Fred Frith, Erika Lockett, Erin McKeown, Jason Mraz, Peter Mulvey, Pauline Oliveros, Doria Roberts, Dar Williams

HONORS

December 2009 Outmusic Awards performance
July 2008 MTV/LOGO Homophonic Interview Feature
2007 & 2006 Solarfest Singer Songwriter Competition Finalist
June 2007 Curve Magazine Interview
January 2007 NPR's Open Mic Feature
November 2006 WERS 88.9fm's Artist of the Week
October 2006 Lizard Lounge Challenge Winner
Voted RI's Best Alt-Rock Female Vocalist in 2006 by Motif Magazine
2005 NEMO Emerging Artist Competition Semi-Finalist
2004 DM Southwest Independent Music World Series Semi-Finalist
2004 North By Northeast Music Festival & Conference Finalist
1994 ASCAP Foundation Grant for Young Composers

SLR RELEASES

The Sacred Whore Demos (SLR9, CD LP) June 2009
Ravengirl (SLR8, CD LP) October 2006
Quaint & Curious Ravendemos (SLR7, CD LP) August 2005
The Mule (SLR6, CD LP) March 2004
bound (SLR5, CD single) July 2003
brave enough (SLR4, CD LP) November 2001
give me a little... (SLR3, CD EP) October 2000