

SKYLINE — April 6, 2006

Practical singer takes care of business

What's the last the last thing they need in Bucktown? Probably another musician.

But not when that musician is Singapore-born and Michigan-raised Dawn Xiana Moon. The singer/songwriter makes her Chicago debut Sunday at the Heartland Café.

"I debated New York versus Chicago for a while because I stayed in Michigan longer than I expected," Moon said of her time growing up in Ann Arbor and attending the University of Michigan. "I had played New York and found it was better as a touring destination."

Moon has spent most of her life playing piano and more than half of her life playing the flute. She has also been playing guitar for more than six years.

Moon said that she listened to a lot of classical music as she was growing up.

"I listened to Debussy and classical composers," she said. "They don't really factor in to what I am playing too much, but they do kind of form a backdrop."

Swing shift

She has the ability to move easily between writing and recording, just as she does through the other aspects of her demanding life. Still, she manages to produce some beautiful music. The singer supports her musical endeavors with a variety of jobs, ranging from model/actor to swing dance instructor.

"When I am playing, I want to make people listen to me, to laugh, to feel something from what I am doing," she said.

Some of her music does have a dark side, however.

"Home is a piano and a dark room," She said. "There is a little of that onstage as well. The more you get lost in a song, the more the audience will go with you."

Despite a lifetime of concerts and recordings and an endless stream of club dates, Moon has toyed with the idea of giving up music, but she knows music is compulsion for her.

Choice career

Artists don't always choose art. Art often chooses them.

"When I go see someone else play, there is this inner dialogue," she said. "I know I have to get back up there and perform again."

Her music has actually gotten her a couple marriage proposals.

"I was playing the theme from 'Star Trek' when this 18-year old kid proposed to me," she said.

She said it happened again at a different show with another ardent fan.

Wise beyond her years, Moon cautions young musicians coming up to make sure they don't just concentrate on the artistic side of the music world.

"Don't focus on the music to the exclusion of the business aspects of being a musician."

Dawn Xiana Moon

8 p.m. Sunday

Heartland Cafe, 7000 North Glenwood, Chicago

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www.heartlandcafe.com.

www.dawnxianamoon.com

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