

Dawn Xiana
Moon

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Biography

Listening to Dawn Xiana Moon is like reading a piece of her soul; honest, searching lyrics are matched by passion in performance. The singer-songwriter shines in the Midwest folk circuit, her intuition mature beyond her years, her skill the fruit of early classical training. It is her powerful vocals that first demand attention with an ease reminiscent of Over the Rhine, a flexibility uniquely hers. Underscored by poetic literacy, she synthesizes inspiration from a diversity of musical styles into melodic folk pop.

The Chinese-American was born in Singapore and began studying classical piano at the age of five, the same year her family moved to the United States. While in high school, she earned prizes for piano, flute, and voice in regional competitions. But it was Dawn's first year at the University of Michigan, where she studied English literature and theatre, that shifted her musical paradigm: she broke out of her mold and began to play the guitar. "It was like anarchy," she says. "For the first time in my life, I wasn't taking lessons or reading music." Two months later, she was writing songs.

From those beginnings, her musical career blossomed. In 2005, she began touring extensively and traveled throughout the Midwest and East Coast playing over 50 concerts in eight states. She is a natural performer, refined by years of training as an actress; concerts feel intimate, laughter is common, and listeners become friends. Variety is her spice, with songs on subjects ranging from Star Trek to failure, from broken relationships to God. Her introspective piano has been likened to Sarah McLachlan, the upbeat guitar to Joni Mitchell.

Dawn's debut, an EP entitled *First Verse*, was an entirely self-financed labor of love. She immersed herself in all aspects of the creative process, co-producing and mixing the record with Rich Blatt from Third Rail Productions and designing the much-praised artwork, which features a few pieces of her photography, herself. A handful of other talented musicians also make appearances on the CD, augmenting her vocals and playing with strings, bass, vocals, and percussion. She is currently at work on her first full-length album and recently moved to Chicago.

As Michigan singer-songwriter Bea Furman put it, "Go the next time you hear she's performing anywhere.... Beautiful music, using a wide variety of styles and layering that showed off her lyrics and simple melodies."

Past Venues

The following is a partial list of venues where Dawn has performed.

Michigan

Ann Arbor: University of Michigan

Club Triune

Potbelly Sandwich Works

University Reformed Church

Espresso Royale Caffe, State St.

Espresso Royale Caffe, Main St.

Ann Arbor Vineyard Church

Element Music Fest

Chapel Coffeehouse

Club Christ

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

Canton: 4 Seasons Internet Cafe

Chelsea: Zou Zou's

Dearborn: University of Michigan-Dearborn

Dexter: Foggy Bottom Coffee House

East Lansing: Agora Coffeehouse

Farmington: The Grand Café

Farmington Hills: Club 2nd Floor

Gaylord: Brothers Coffee and Tea

Grosse Pointe Park: Cup-A-Cino/The Wired Café

Hillsdale: Union Perk Coffee House

Holland: Lemonjello's

Jackson: Interfaith Shelter

Lansing: Magdalena's Tea House

Lincoln Park: The New Exodus

Marquette: 231 House of Muses

Petoskey: Harmony Grounds Coffee

Plymouth: Plymouth Coffee Bean

Saginaw: Peace Lutheran Church

Taylor: The Trolley Stop

Ypsilanti: Holy Palooza

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

Wyandotte: Café 289

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Illinois

Chicago: Uncommon Ground

Heartland Cafe

Bourgeois Pig

Red Line Tap

Silvie's Lounge

Caribou Coffee, S. Halsted

Tavern 33

Evanston: Café Mud

Pick a Cup Coffee

Indiana

Goshen: Electric Brew

Rachel's Breads

Minnesota

Minneapolis: Acadia Cafe

Missouri

Kansas City: Westport Coffeehouse

New Jersey

Allendale: Holy Grounds

New York

New York City: Otto's Shrunken Head

Ohio

Bowling Green: Easy Street Cafe

Cincinnati: Rohs Street Cafe

Toledo: Brewed Awakenings

Wisconsin

Oshkosh: New Moon Café

Manitowoc: Premier Cafe

"Beautiful music and a beautiful voice."
—Beth Stalker, Detroit Music Award winner