



www.shannongaye.com

Shannon Gaye

Acoustic Soul / R&B / Nu-Jazz

www.myspace.com/shannongaye

"Pretty Pictures is not only a must-have CD for Canadian Soul / Jazz fans, but also for those in search of serious groove-driven yet melodic and meaningful music."

Biography

Jasmin C. – Metrogallery

Shannon Gaye presents her latest CD **Pretty Pictures** - sophisticated urban music with matter for the mind.

On stage, Shannon and her exceptional three piece band deliver heavy grooves featuring Shannon (a chick?!) on percussion. And she can sing with a capital "S". From the most delicate melodies to sky high, roof-raising licks, Shannon is in full command of her voice. Music writer James Murecich described her as **"the slender singer with the big soulful voice – the kind that knocks you for a loop."**

Shannon's middle name "Gaye" was a nod to brilliant musician and social activist Marvin Gaye. Oddly enough for a young girl growing up in rootsy B.C., Shannon has always had an affinity for soul, jazz and R&B. Early musical inspirations include the classics: powerhouse singers Aretha Franklin, Chaka Khan and Stevie Wonder, as well as funk institutions Earth, Wind & Fire and Tower of Power. Present day influences include artists like Nikka Costa, Corinne Bailey Rae, Jill Scott and Marc Broussard. From a songwriting perspective, Shannon finds herself drawn to the poets - great wordsmiths like Leonard Cohen, Donald Fagen (Steely Dan), Joni Mitchell, and Ricky Lee Jones.

This Vancouver-based recording artist's tales are as layered and textured as the music she writes; the combination of energy and introspection gives as much dynamic range to Shannon's live performance as captured on record. In concert with her stellar three-piece band (drums, bass, keyboards) comprised of some of the top funk/jazz musicians in Western Canada, Shannon packs a powerful punch. The group shares an intense musical bond - true passion for rhythm, a strong melodic sense and a fiery approach to improvisation. Shannon's main collaborator and musical director is Kristian Alexandrov, a gifted pianist & drummer who also happens to be longstanding music director for Calgary's Decidedly Jazz Danceworks.

This past November/December, Shannon was once again a **featured artist** in the Singing for Supper Concert Series, a **22-city cross-Canada tour**. She's also making waves across the pond. Her song **"Willing & Able"** from *Pretty Pictures* was **chosen for a Soul Compilation CD released** in 2007 in the **U.K. and Europe** titled **Vibed Volume 1**. Several of Shannon's songs have been featured in TV series and films in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. Since releasing *Pretty Pictures* Shannon has performed at numerous festivals, including Beaches Festival (Toronto), Frostbite Festival, Red River Relief Festival, Calgary Jazzfest, Medicine Hat Jazzfest, Lethbridge Jazzerwocky, and Canmore's Vic Lewis Festival. **Performance highlights** include **opening for David Sanborn, Colin James and Futureman (Bella Fleck)**.

Pretty Pictures provides plenty of opportunities for Shannon to shine as a singer, writer and producer, from the cool scat vocal line doubled by a Rhodes in "Willing & Able", to the infectious rapid-fire chorus in "Stone". Songs like "Get Used to It" and "Flower" reveal the southern roots of soul. "Away", with its moody vibe, brings Erykah Badu to mind; the phonetic African-style vocal hook delivers the message like some kind of S.O.S. The title track "Pretty Pictures" features a decidedly urban aesthetic, while "Sink or Swim" and "Think Twice" with their sophisticated harmony typify nu-jazz.

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