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# CRISSI COCHRANE

## SINGIN' THE BLUES IN WINDSOR

CRISSI COCHRANE, WHO TURNS 25 on April 6th has at least one birthday wish: that her latest musical venture meets with popularity and success.

She was born and raised in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. After completing high school, where she released her first records as a student, Crissi moved to Halifax where she studied Music Business for a year at the Nova Scotia Community College in Dartmouth.

As a kid, Crissi recalls her love of writing, not only music but prose and poetry as well. "I wrote lots of short stories which ended up being 100 pages long," she says, "and eventually I started writing poetry which soon became songs.

Before I started writing which was about the age of 15, I always had lots of creative outlets." She did crafts and painting. "I was always very crafty," she says with a smile. Physical activities like sports weren't part of the picture. She still writes poetry but it's mainly for herself... "I don't share it with anybody," she admits.

Her interest in music developed at a young age. She was into the 'boy bands' and had a particular fondness for the Spice Girls. "I was one of those kids who adored the idea of being an entertainer and being able to have some kind of showmanship." Following in the footsteps of her father, Crissi started playing the acoustic guitar when she was about 10 ►

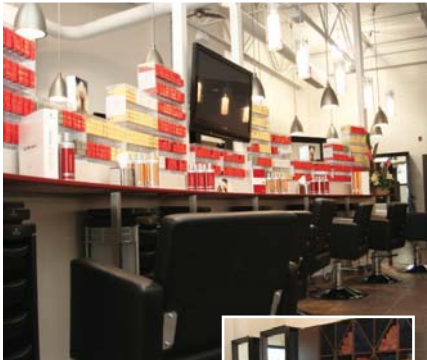


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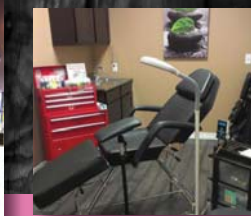


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or 11. Admitting to being very shy at the time, she says she learned most of the chords from the internet, rather than taking lessons. In time, when she felt sufficiently competent, she joined her dad in supplying music for campfire gatherings and other social events.

The last 14 years have been busy for the young Maritimer. She was a member of an east coast Indie rock band, Gamma Gamma Rays for at least three years and contributed guest vocals on an EP released by Rich Aucoin, on Sonic records. She started performing under own name in 2009 and just before moving to Ontario the following year, Crissi released 'Darling, Darling', a full-length folk-pop album which was recorded at SOMA Electronic Music Studios in Chicago. She says while she wrote all the songs, it's a far departure from her current music...it's "sweet, very sentimental and contains songs about moving away from my home town and being away from my family and about some of my first bruises from love." Copies can be ordered by logging on to [www.crissicochrane.com](http://www.crissicochrane.com).

For the past 3 1/2 years, Crissi has been a resident of Windsor, a city she fell in love with during an earlier visit. She says, "its proximity to the U.S. is amazing and it has a great rich musical history. It's a terrific place in which to write and live." Not to mention her relationship with songwriter-musician Mike Hargreaves, bassist for The Walkervilles who just happens to be her 'significant other.'

Her first Windsor recording titled 'Pretty Alright' is a 6-cut EP, a country-wide release which reached 5th place in the national folk chart for community and campus radio and #153 of the top 200 in Canada for the month of December 2011. It also received airplay on CBC radio. It's done in the same basic style as Darling Darling, but as Crissi says, "the songs are a little more upbeat – it's a much more acoustic record but still has a definite intimate feel to it." Pretty Alright is also available from Crissi's website.

'Little Sway' is the title of Crissi's second full-length studio album which has just hit the market. It's also her most ambitious endeavour featuring the influences of jazz, soul, bossa nova, Motown and R & B. She says it marries the heart of the East Coast with the soul of Windsor/Detroit! 9 of the ten songs are her own, while the other is her own adaptation of 'The Man I Love', the great Gershwin classic of the 1920s immortalized by the legendary Billie Holiday. The sax arrangements were influenced

by the great Stan Getz and Lester Young. Production was handled by former Yellow Wood member Adam Rideout-Arkell, a man with an outstanding ear for great sound. Partial funding for the project came from the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records, the Ontario Arts Council and the Windsor Endowment for the Arts. Bass and drums were supplied by Mike Hargreaves and Stefan Cvetkovic, both members of The Walkervilles, while saxophone and trumpet arrangements were done by Drew Jurecka. Shortly after its release in late January, the disc shot up to #30 on national charts.

In Crissi's words, "this album, unlike the sentimentality of Darling Darling, has a sassier vibe. It has more attitude and the songs are a lot more brazen...more creative risks have been taken in the new recording." She sees her major audience in the 24 to 34 age group, although many older listeners appear to be developing an appreciation for her music which is reminiscent of the hits of the past.

'Little Sway' can be heard on iTunes and can be ordered from Crissi's website. It's also for sale at Dr. Disc on Ouellette Avenue downtown and at Ah Some Records on Tecumseh Road East.

As her career progresses, Crissi says a manager and a booking agent are likely in her future, but for now she prefers to have control and manage her own destiny, realizing how easy it is to be taken advantage of in a tough business.

Since moving to Ontario, she's played several live gigs at Windsor clubs, has already done a couple of mini-tours and has made a few live appearances in Toronto. She'll likely be making a few more tours later this spring to promote 'Little Sway'.

Her next recording will be a double-sided 7-inch vinyl record featuring herself and the Rose City Soul Brothers, also known as Mike Hargreaves and Stefan Cvetkovic. And she continues writing in hopes of completing another full-length album by the end of the year.

While she dreams of having a full-time musical career, Crissi also has a part-time job at the University of Windsor at the Centre For Smart Community Innovation and helps manage some online resources not related to music.

One thing is certain. With the release of 'Little Sway' Crissi Cochrane should see her star rising on the world music stage! Not only does she possess a natural writing talent and a sultry, captivating voice, but she has the drive and the musical passion to become a huge success.

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