

JANE HUNT - VIOLIN VENUS



BRITISH BORN JANE HUNT - "VIOLIN VENUS" WHO HAS PERFORMED EVERYWHERE FROM CARNEGIE HALL, RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL TO FASHION WEEK & U.S. OPEN, IS A MULTI- FACETED ARTIST WITH A CAPTIVATING CLASSICAL CROSSOVER VIBE ON HER NEW EP.

press release May 2011-
The Rainmaker Media Group

Considering Jane Hunt's passionate, soaring performances everywhere from Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall to New York's Fashion Week, the U.S. Open and concerts down in Buenos Aires, it might seem that the violinist /composer's renown as the "Violin Venus" came from an inspired fan or professional music critic.

Instead British born, classically trained Hunt actually came by her branding in a more humble way, when friends began calling her that as a lighthearted joke. Hunt came to embrace the tag so fully that she appears on the cover of her 2006 debut album *Rebirth* with her instrument in a setting that borrows from the classic *The Birth of Venus* painting by Sandro Botticelli. As she releases her new four song self titled EP—which features the hypnotic, emotionally compelling "Vasene" that has become her signature song - the imagery of the her "boho," "surfer-girl" style is reflected on the cover of her new EP. She is pictured sitting barefoot in a yoga pose with the backdrop of the ocean - which seems fitting as the perfect metaphor for Hunt's evolution as an artist and organic approach to her music.

The critically acclaimed, Celtic/Classical flavored *Rebirth*, which she recorded with members of the Eileen Ivers Band and original Blues Brothers percussionist Tommy McDonnell, received airplay on many radio stations across the country and inspired Hunt to create "The Violin Venus Show," which combined classical music with pop, folk and jazz. As she began to compose new material with different writers, these other elements began to take precedence.

Hunt's new material blends the central haunting, melodic sound of her violin with the influence of folk music and acoustic rock singer-songwriters she admires. She also uses synth- generated pad sounds to create a hypnotic orchestral effect. The three other tracks are the timeless "Melia Dream," "Flying High" reminiscent of an acoustic song and the ambient Middle Eastern flavored "Sahara."

"My current sound evolved naturally from trying new ideas and experimenting by incorporating other elements both in live performance and in the studio," says Jane. "Technology allows us to utilize so many different textures that can take songs in so many different harmonic and percussive directions. Some people call the vibe classical crossover, while others say it's a mix of pop, classical and folk. Rather than strictly define it, I like to say it's a new ethereal vibe and leave it to the listener to decide how to perceive it. I love the fact that I continue to achieve my goal to show the expansive musical possibilities of the violin and show how accessible it is to those who mostly listen to pop music. Growing up I listened to Bruce Springsteen and U2 just as much as Bach and Mozart. I have an interest in a lot of different styles and happen to play violin. I can speak through my instrument and incorporate elements from a lot of different worlds."

Born in Manchester, England, Hunt began playing the instrument that would define her life and career when her grandfather discovered an heirloom violin in the family attic. She is a graduate (in violin performance) of the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was a member of the Colman String Quartet, a highly acclaimed group which performed throughout England and in prestigious international chamber music festivals. Prior to embarking on her solo career, she moved to the U.S. to join the multi-faceted classical ensemble Neo Camerata (performing all original classical music) and later performed as guest soloist with The Irish Sopranos and Ronan Tynan. Over the past few years, Hunt has become a staple at performing arts centers across the U.S. and Europe and has headlined at numerous corporate events in addition to her prominent roles during Fashion Week and at the U.S. Open.

As a recording artist, Jane has worked with Allegro Record Label at George Lucas's legendary Skywalker Ranch Soundstage in Berkeley, California, Sirius Radio Studios and Avatar Studios in New York City. She has recorded with accredited producers such as Neil Dorfsman (Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Solas), and Kathy Geilser (Lara St. John "Bach"). More recently, she has been working on more original compositions with acclaimed pianist and producer Vana Gierig (Regina Carter, "Paganini - After a Dream"), Eanan Patterson (Hunt's co-writer on "Vasene") and Jamshied Shariffi (Hunt's co-writer on "Sahara").