



KIRSTEN JONES

"Smooth-as-buckwheat-honey vocals...a bona fide comparison to Emmylou Harris is not out of order..." - Eric Thom, Exclaim

Toronto-based singer/songwriter Kirsten Jones had only one producer in mind for her sophomore album, *The Mad Mile*: Jayhawks front man **Gary Louris**. "I knew I wanted to try reaching Gary before even trying to think of anyone else, so I looked up his management, crossed my fingers, and sent them a package." A few months later, Jones found herself in a "pinch me" situation – she and Louris were writing in her Toronto living room, and then hit the studio for *The Mad Mile*. Creating a sound that combined her alt country and roots influences with her own unique writing style came naturally, thanks to Louris' firsthand experience with some of Jones' favourite artists (The Dixie Chicks, Kelly Willis, Lucinda Williams, The Jayhawks).

"She has interesting lyrics, pretty heavy duty lyrics and a hook sensibility. She has it, you know? I'm jealous - I wish I had written these songs..." - Gary Louris, The Jayhawks

QUICK FACTS

*Canadian Country Music Award Nominee for Roots Artist of the Year

*International Songwriting Competition Finalist in Americana three years in a row, including a Third Place win for "I Don't Wanna Live Like This"

*Album opener "You Ain't Comin' By" hit the top three in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest (Country)

*Guests on *The Mad Mile* include pedal steel great and AMA Lifetime Achievement Award winner Greg Leisz, Oh Susanna, Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy and Bob Egan (Blue Rodeo, Wilco).

*Touring has included shows with The Jayhawks, Dar Williams, Minnie Driver, Hayes Carll, Jim Cuddy, Oh Susanna and numerous others.

Soon after the album's release, Jones was chosen by Billboard Canada as one of five artists to watch. Jones has since been invited to perform at the Canadian Country Music Awards prestigious Songwriter's Cafe three years running, alongside artists including Victoria Banks and Carolyn Dawn Johnson. In 2011, Kirsten was nominated for Roots Artist of the Year at the CCMA's, only the second ever female nominee in that category (the other was Kathleen Edwards).



Kirsten wrote or co-wrote every song on *The Mad Mile*, and two songs were co-written with producer Gary Louris. Jones has been a finalist three years in a row in the International Songwriting Competition in the Americana category (out of over 15,000 entries from over 115 countries), and was awarded third place. She was also a Top 3 finalist in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest in the country category alongside fellow Canadian Gordie Sampson.



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