

In the Spotlight with Nancy Atlas

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Denon presents an exclusive interview with Nancy Atlas, singer and songwriter known for creating music that is original Americana Rock with a Southern flare.



Nancy was born in Commack, Long Island, though she did not stay there for long, because as soon as she finished public school, she began cultivating her passion for the arts by going to Cambridge University, and then Richmond College in Florence, Italy. She was blazing her way to her destiny, scheduled to graduate early, when she bought a guitar and began to lay the foundations of her future career.

Since then, 14 years on, she had already produced a number of albums, all under her own Neptuna Records label, and gained a fan following most artists of her caliber could only dream of. In fact, several names in show business have already taken notice, like Kelly Ripa, who said "If Elvis [Presley] and [Melissa] Etheridge had a child, she [Nancy] would be it!" She has also opened or followed for a number of other acts over the years, including Lucinda Williams, Bon Jovi, Jimmy Buffet, Nancy Sinatra, The Roots, Sophie B. Hawkins, Joan Osborne, Jeff Buckley, and a whole lot more. It is a testament to Nancy's ever rising star, one that shows no signs of burning out any time soon.

And yet, despite all of this, Nancy and her band still goes on a large number of grass root tours all over the country, playing to her fans and keeping them close to her heart as best as she can, in many intimate venues where people can get up close and personal to her unique and personal music.



Tell us about yourself.

My name is Nancy Atlas and I am a singer songwriter. I've had the same members in my band for almost 14 years which is a rarity in this business. It's like dog years... multiply it by 7 to get a real idea of what that means. I was born and raised in Commack, New York with gypsy blood. Upon graduating from Commack

High School I went to Cambridge University in England and then Florence, Italy via Richmond College in England where I received a Bachelor of Arts. I currently live in Montauk, New York for 10 months out of the year with my husband Thomas and my 5 year old son Cash. The other two months I can be found traveling the globe. I currently write this on route to New Zealand. My motto is "Live Large and Play Hard" so in short I choose the ant's life most of the time with a month or two of the grasshopper living.

When did you first decide to become a musician, & what inspired you?

There was a massive recession in the winter of '91. I had just completed my college degree in art and was looking for a job in advertising. The prospects were bleak. In a way it was similar to the current job market. I kept going on these interviews and being told I could work for free for 6 months or water plants. I was trying to live in London and that just wasn't an option for me. I was depressed and young and truly overwhelmed by it all. I decided one morning to go out and buy a guitar as I had always wanted to play. I went down to Portobello Road and bought a second hand guitar for 60 quid. I learned to play three chords on the first day and never looked back. I had written my first song by the end of that week and was singing my red wine heart out at broke friends dinner parties by the end of the month. It was love at first strum.

When did you first fall in love with music?

I have always had an ear. I can remember being very young like three or four years old and earing out "Three Blind Mice" on the piano. I always felt safe when I played music on any level and it became a personal place to go to when I was young and trying to process an emotion or a situation. I only had one year of piano lessons when I was 10 but it took me a long way. In 8th grade I remember having 7 girls sing three part harmony with me on an original song I wrote for our Talent show. To any extent, it was at that time, around 11 or 12, that I really connected with it being my own thing. I always had a sense of playing for myself and not really concerned with what others thought and found myself running to the music room to play and practice the harmonies with the girls. That excitement is still there when the band plays a new song for the first time. The first time you hear an original song with a full band is a complete and utter rush.

Describe your perfect listening experience?

The perfect listening experience for me would be listening to my new album on a pair of Denon [AH-D7000 headphones](#). Sonic Bliss. These headphones transport me. They share every sonic nuance and deliver an experience that can only be described as personal.

Have you ever owned a piece of DENON equipment?

I own a pair of AH-D700 headphones and I may possibly put in my will to be buried with them on my head.

Tell us about your most memorable DENON moment?

Mixing my latest album, "It Aint That Way Now" with them in the Studio of Ill Repute in Springs, New York. It had been a long day and I was listening to final mixes of my song "Montanita". The mix was smooth and I was so relaxed that I fell asleep with the headphones on.

Who are your favorite artists today?

Favorite Musicians: Lucinda Williams, Tom Petty, Mark Knoffler, Arcade Fire, Wilco, Jeff Buckley, Bob Marley. The list is endless I'm a mixed bag of donuts if you will.

Sound Engineers: Daniel Lanois, Rick Rubin, T-Bone Burnett. Drool, Drool, Drool.

Who is doing work today that really inspires you?

I am all about the song and the craft of writing it. Current writers I dig are Ben Lee and Fist Full of Mercy. I have always been a long time fan of Tom Petty. He writes songs that are catchy but smart and you are always singing them by the end. Lucinda Williams goes without saying. I've been a fan for a long time and often when I write a song like "Lost Highway" or "Black and Blue" I will think in the back of my head that Lucinda would probably give it a thumbs up and that makes me smile. She definitely inspires me simply by keeping it up.

What do you think the future of music holds in store for us?

Great live performance will always move people and keep them coming back for more. An epic live band will always survive (ie.Red Hot Chili Peppers, U2, Dave Matthews) Obviously we've opened a new gate in the past 10 years of music availability. There is an onslaught of options. Denon provides the distinguished listener to get the ultimate sonic experience while all this change is happening helping the cream to always rise. My feeling is that no matter how many songs, bands or equipment there is out there when something is great it cannot be denied. That inspires me to write the purest songs I possibly can.



Nancy Atlas isn't stopping any time soon, so check her out anytime! Visit her [website](#) for more news about Nancy, as well as gig dates, videos, and a whole lot more. The new album by [The Nancy Atlas Project](#) named "[It Ain't That Way Now](#)" is now available, at [CDBABY](#) or on [iTunes](#).

Also follow Nancy on [ReverbNation](#) where you can also get a number of free downloads, as well as join her mailing list!

February 28th, 2011 | Tags: [Denon](#), [Denon 100](#), [Denon 100th Anniversary](#), [Denon Interview](#), [DenonUSA](#), [nancy atlas](#) | Category: [100th Anniversary](#) | [One comment](#)

In the Spotlight with Brooke Campbell

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Denon presents an exclusive interview with Brooke Campbell, folk, pop, and bluegrass singer-songwriter known for logging her journey through life in her music.



Brooke, a native of Whiteville, North Carolina, grew up counter to the local norm. She found herself hanging out with the artistic kids in school, despite, at the start, having difficulty creating and writing. But what started out as a joke, turned serious when she discovered eventually that there are few things she loves to do more than writing music. Almost at the same time, Brooke, who grew up in church, became conscious of God, and her passion for music combined with her talent and faith set her on the path she's on today.

Brooke's songs are mostly about her life, focusing on producing lyrics that speak the truth and aim to inspire people. When she performs up and down the East Coast, Brooke shares her passion with her listeners. She plays everywhere where people are willing to sit and listen to her soulful songs, playing at colleges, listening rooms, and prayer meeting venues.

Tell us about yourself.

I'm a singer/songwriter, living in New York City. I grew up in Whiteville, N.C., a small town near the coast.

When did you first decide to become a musician, & what inspired you?

Well, I guess I didn't decide to become a musician; it just started pouring out of me one day. In college, I learned to pray, which I realize, is not typical. But, as soon as I did the music started coming and it hasn't ever really stopped.

When did you first fall in love with music?

Oh, well the 1st two examples that come to mind when I think about music really opening my heart are singing in the car with my Mom. We would sing harmonies of anything we knew-songs from the fifties, old hymns, Christmas songs in the summer, whatever. The other is with some friends of mine who would gather on a pier at a lake near my house. The guitars would invariably come out. This was long before I played, but God, did I love hearing them and singing along. There was a lot of James Taylor and Indigo Girls.

