

CHRISTA COUTURE // BIOGRAPHY

From the start, Vancouver's **Christa Couture** established herself as a songwriter with sharp-shooting wit, effortless grace and heart-on-sleeve intensity. Since her critically acclaimed debut album, **Fell Out Of Oz** (2005), and her sophomore record, **The Wedding Singer And The Undertaker** (2008), she has explored intimate spaces with a frank confidence that avoids cliché and melodrama. Her "gorgeously intimate voice [is] somewhere between the tough vulnerability of Amy Rigby and the passionate, sophisticated folk of Joni Mitchell" (Pop Matters), while *Tandem* (Toronto) predicts she "could be the next Canuck to enjoy the success of Sarah Harmer or Kathleen Edwards."

Couture continues to develop her unique style and voice. First seen as a "girl with guitar," Couture's writing and performing now find her moving between guitar and piano for accompaniment. She recently undertook piano studies to brush up on her childhood passion for the instrument. **The Wedding Singer And The Undertaker** reflected a move into more dense production and orchestration with the inclusion of horn and string sections, guided by Vancouver producer, **Futcher**.

The Wedding Singer And The Undertaker hit the **Top 10 on CBC Radio 3** and won **Best Folk Acoustic Album** at the 2008 **Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards**. Couture was also nominated for **Best Female Artist** and performed at the awards gala at Toronto's Rogers Centre, which was televised nationally on CityTV. She recently played at the 2011 **JUNOFest** in Toronto, Brief Encounters 16 in Vancouver and joined chamber-pop quartet E.S.L. and electro-cellist Cris Derksen on five B.C. tour dates in April.

After a two year hiatus to have her second child, Couture is returning to work with the release of two new EPs in June 2011. **Loved** features five fan favourites – a "best of" Couture's songs from the past six years. **Lost** includes five unreleased songs from the same time period – an alternate arrangement that got cut from a record at the last minute, three songs from a side project that was never released, and an early demo of one of Couture's first songs.

Summer 2011 saw Couture back on tour to Canadian cities and festivals, including the **Winnipeg Folk Festival**. In September, Couture was the first international artist to be invited to participate in The ISLAND Hill House in Michigan - an artist residency program for emerging artists. Following her two week residency, Couture had tour dates to Ontario, Vancouver Island and a special performance at Aboriginal Music Week in Winnipeg.

Couture is currently in production with producer **Steve Dawson** on her next full-length album, entitled **The Living Record**, set for release in Autumn 2012.