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Jenn Grant: Art Imitates Art  
Shannon Webb-Campbell

Whether writing, painting or singing, this Halifax songstress' creative star is on the rise.

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If life imitates art and art imitates life, Jenn Grant shall be one fortuitous leading lady. Initially this haphazard musician mused around town playing solo gigs, meddling around with few bands here and there, only to eventually wind up at footsteps of CBC to record a follow-up full-length to her self-titled EP with Glen Meisner.



This bought of happenstance was executed by a dear neighbour, who called in a favour to his buddy at the national radio station. The result of this musical endeavour is Grant's forthcoming album *Orchestra For The Moon*. Grant recently won Best Female Musician and Best New Artist at this year's Nova Scotia Music Awards.

"I started writing when I was 8 and performed for my mom," says the wide-eyed butterfly, cross-legged, with her clothes and hands covered in charcoal and paint at her mother's house downtown Halifax. "When it was someone's birthday I would write songs for them for their birthday. I started playing guitar when I was twelve. I played a couple of coffee shops when I was fifteen, I was too nervous after that, it was good for a little while and then I stopped for ten years."

**Her high-spirited grace is so deeply ingrained into the fibres of her being it leaks out from her vocal chords and fingertips, the eminent songwriter's artwork translates her dreamy sounds to canvas.**

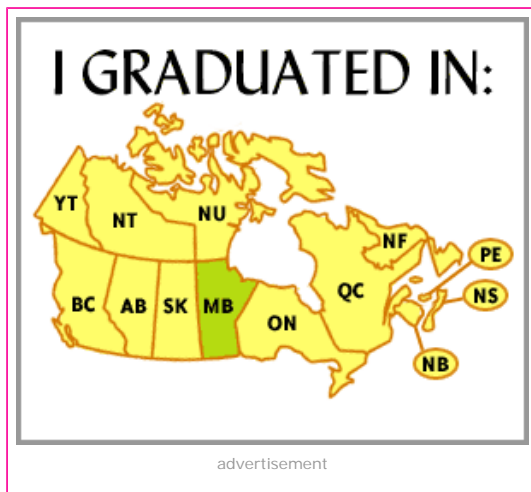
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During her extended sabbatical from performing she wrote furiously, frantically and painted feverishly. At 26, she felt jumped by the muse, Grant found herself awe-struck by the life and experiences surrounding her. The natural ability of her craftsmanship is evident in her sporadic outbursts of stories, idiosyncratic memos and obvious zest for life. She bounces from subject to subject, just as she must juggle song writing, singing, performing and painting.

"At home, in my apartment our bedroom (who she shares with her beau and band mate Jason Burns of Down With The Butterfly) is set up so I can play on the floor and make art," she says.

"All of my best friends are musicians. I find just being around really creative people is inspiring. I've been writing tons of songs lately, I just don't go out or do anything else."



Grant's full-length album *Orchestra For The Moon* was produced by Glen Meisner and Heavy Blinks David Christensen and Jason MacIsaac, which also features appearances by **Jill Barber**, Rose Cousins, Tyler Messick and Ron Sexsmith. Her high-spirited grace is so deeply ingrained into the fibres of her being it leaks out from her vocal chords and fingertips, the eminent songwriter's artwork translates her dreamy sounds to canvas. Grant's artistic eye combines the calming hues of the Group of Seven with the ferocious spirit of Emily Carr and adds a dash of child-like romanticism.

"I did the painting for the cover of the album. Jason and I were traveling on a tour in a van together somewhere, we were talking about album names and we said let's write down words we like. We had a whole bunch of words like river and orchestra. We picked Orchestra For The Moon because the moon is the conductor for the river and everything, the atmosphere of the earth comes together and makes a symphony."

*Orchestra For The Moon* shall be released sometime in the New Year, until then, Grant and her band The Night Painters comprised of Jason Burns on drums, Sean MacGillivray on bass, Dave Christensen on flute and electric organ, Kris Pop on slide and electric guitar and Kinley Dowling on violin are hitting the road. The bohemian collective are carving their way across the Maritimes and throughout Ontario with their dear friend and neighbour Tanya Davis in tow.

Both Grant and Davis are native Prince Edward Islanders, as the songsters shall flaunt their buoyant charms, share insights, and offer up their individual talents with words and fondness for art.

"I want to have an art show this summer at Tanya's house," says Grant. "She has a great house with big walls. I want to write ten new songs and create ten new paintings. I want to make a record called Paintings and have a small performance and have the paintings up at the same time. Whenever I am writing or painting, I'm not thinking about what I am doing. It's this sub-conscious thing working through me. Both expressions are from the same place."

To learn more about Jenn Grants artistic endeavors, visit [www.jenngrant.com](http://www.jenngrant.com)

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