

jean synodinos

grit | grace | acoustic soul

Jean Synodinos delivers grit, grace and acoustic soul with a voice that's been hailed by critics as "big league" and "show-stopping." Her award-winning writing digs deep, moving from large affirmations to little ironies, giving pain, honesty, and love equal footing.

Her fourth album, *love & blood*, entered the world as a multi-media digital experience with extensive liner notes, artwork, essays, and videos. This modern take on the album experience can be streamed at www.loveandblood.org. Jean's most personal effort to date, *love & blood* is a love letter to her late ex-husband and collaborator, guitarist Charles Rieser (The Scabs, Ugly Americans), who died in December 2014.

Early reviews for *love & blood* compared it to Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*, Joni Mitchell's *Blue*, and the poetry of Leonard Cohen. She was declared a Top 10 Finalist in the 2015 Austin Music Awards in the categories of Best Songwriter and Best Folk Act, and songs from the album won first place in the International Song Door Competition and placed as finalists in the Great American Song Contest.

Jean's third album, *Girls, Good & Otherwise*, received a 2012 Texas Music Award for Artistic Excellence, and her previous releases, *Breathe* (2006) and *Lucky* (2003), also received their share of accolades. *Third Coast Music* wrote, "There's no mistaking that marvelous voice, but if that alone gives her a decided advantage in the massed ranks of Austin's Girls with Guitars, she piles it on by writing songs that are extraordinarily distinctive... she writes poetry that can be sung."

A 1996 win in Kerrville's New Folk Competition prompted a move from NYC to Austin where she's quietly and steadily built a dedicated following. She has also performed coast-to-coast as a solo artist at premier listening rooms, house concerts, and coffee houses.

Jean is immensely proud to volunteer with the national nonprofit Jail Guitar Doors, and she has brought guitar and songwriting classes each week to incarcerated men and women at the Travis County Correctional Complex since 2013. As a breast cancer survivor, she appreciates all opportunities to remind women (and the men who love them), that early detection not only saves lives--it saves the quality of lives.

After years of searching for just the right words for every lyric, Jean is also now a painter. She abandons herself to colors, textures, and shapes as a fresh way to tap into her creative core with a prolific enthusiasm that shows no signs of slowing down. She lives in a very small house in south Austin and wouldn't change a thing about her life.



"A first-class lyricist who delivers those words with an expressive, bell-clear voice... Synodinos makes music that isn't easy to categorize, but easily captivates those who pay attention."

– Jim Beal, *San Antonio Express-News*

"I hardly know which... is more compelling--Synodinos' voice, her songwriting, or her stronghold on guitar. Fresh but down-home-dirty. Pure but worldly. Bottomless but downy-light. A woman to be reckoned with."

– Genevieve Will, *Indie-Music.com*



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