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### Music to Our Ears: Kim DiVine



**Tell us about yourself – where did you come from, and how did you get to where you are today?**

I grew up in a small town called Holden, Massachusetts. Just outside of Worcester, MA. I starting plating guitar and attempting to write songs in college and I fell in love with it. After college I got a job working at a radio station. I also began to play some shows live and try out my songs for people. I was so scared but you have to start somewhere. After about a year I got the bug! I decided I wanted something bigger than Worcester Massachusetts and I decided that California was the place to go. In 2004 I quit my job, packed my bags and drove across country with my best friend to move to San Diego. I heard they had a great music scene and I wanted to give it a shot. It was amazing there! I grew up musically in San Diego in so many ways, in writing songs, playing live and I also recorded an EP called “Hummingbird”. After about 3 years there I decided it was time to move on and up and I headed to Los Angeles. I have had such a great time in this city meeting so many great musical minds, recording more music (Square One), and playing shows at places like Hotel Café.

**Was music your first love, or did you dabble in other arts first?**

I wanted to be an actress first. When I was younger I always loved putting on shows for my family and friends. Making home videos, skits etc. Basically being a goofball. I did a lot of acting in high school and in college. I also sang too but I didn’t switch gears towards music until college when I found a new love for it and realized I



had a voice for it too.

**Just as authors are influenced by other writers, musicians are often influenced by other musicians. Who are your musical influences?**

The first artists who inspired me to make my own music were bands like Dave Matthews, Indigo Girls, Jeff Buckley, Guster, Radiohead, Sunny Day Real Estate and Pink Floyd (just to name a few). I fell in love with their music, each one for different reasons and it really made me want to create my own.



**Even the greatest songwriters begin by playing other people's music. Is there a song you've covered that you're especially fond of? Is there a song you'd love to cover, but haven't?**

My first cover song I learned was "Closer to Fine" by Indigo Girls". Then I went on to learn Radiohead's "High and Dry" and "Thinking about You". I pretty much learned Radiohead's entire album "The Bends". That album changed me. I didn't discover Patty Griffin until I was living in San Diego but once I did I fell in love with her songs. She is amazing. I really love to cover her song "Moses". I sing to her album "Living with Ghosts" while warming up before shows a lot. That album is my favorite out of her entire discography.

**Especially for newer artists, touring is an important part of building a career. Do you enjoy life on the road? What aspect of it most appeals to you?**

I do but I don't get on the road as much as I would like. It can get tough for independent musicians to have the time and funds to properly tour and still manage to pay the bills. But I love going on the road. It can be stressful but after you get through the traffic, getting lost, forgetting gear, or running out of clothes to wear, all you need is one great show in a new city and all is right in the world. All the stress is forgotten and you do it all over again the next day. It is a rush that I love.

**Music is as much physical as it is mental and emotional. What is your key to keeping yourself healthy, on the road or off?**

Working out and eating right. Without it I couldn't function. I love to do Yoga, go for a run, and I try to eat well. I am lactose intolerant so I don't eat any dairy and that forces me to be healthy. Working out is a great stress reliever and it really clears my head.

**At some point in their careers almost every musician finds themselves collaborating with another. Who would you absolutely love to collaborate with, and why?**

Wow! That is a hard one. Patty Griffin because I think she is brilliant. Dave Matthews as well. He is a great storyteller and I love his guitar skills. Thom York!! I might faint if I ever had that opportunity. He is revolutionary in my mind. The way he blends so many styles and sounds and manages to make music that is totally unique time and time again.



**Confession time: when you're NOT working on your own stuff, what tunes are cranking out of your iPod? Give us your top five?**

Ok, right now this is what I am spinning: 1. Mumford and Sons (Sign No More) 2. Joe Purdy (Julie Blue) 3. Train (Save Me, San Francisco) 4. Andrew Belle (The Ladder) 5. Ingrid Michaelson (Everybody)

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Are you a baseball fan? Kim will be singing the National Anthem at the LA Dodger's Game on August 22, 2010.

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Posted by Deb in [Arts: Books, Music & Movies](#) |

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