

Jenie Thai's Electronic Press Kit

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Biography:

Born in Chiang Mai Thailand, and raised outside of Edmonton, Jenie Thai is building a musical presence throughout the country through the electric energy she displays on stage and the old soul that's conveyed through her songwriting. Raised in a musical household of six, silence was rare. Jenie's blues and roots education began young when she fell asleep to the music her parents played while entertaining guests downstairs. Her training on the piano began at age five; she took private lessons for fifteen years. Through her classical training she spent her early school years performing difficult repertoire at various workshops, camps, and festivals year round receiving national accolade.

Graduating at seventeen, she continued her musical development, studying classical piano at Augustana University. In 2008, Jenie diversified her education attending Grant MacEwan Jazz and Contemporary Music Program as a performance major. Upon graduation, Jenie was offered a part-time teaching position at Grant MacEwan University and gained acceptance into



Paul McCartney's international music school based in Liverpool.

In 2011, Jenie released her EP "Lady Flower". With the titled track she received an "honourable mention" as a finalist in the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) under the performance category (a category of 13 finalists out of 16,000 submissions from around the globe). With the EP, she has been heard on many festival stages including both the 2011 Edmonton Folk Music Festival and the 2012 Canmore Folk Festival.

Both solo and with her trio, Jenie has shared her songs across Western Canada on festival stages, concert halls, blues venues, lounges, and living rooms. In spring of 2012, Jenie started the "Couch Concert Series", a continuing project where she arrives on strangers' steps to play a living room show in exchange for donations and a couch to sleep on.

In April 2013, Jenie Thai released "Only The Moon" which is "a beautifully crafted nine-song album of original songs showcasing a voice that has warmth and beauty..." writes David Farrell, writer for Toronto's *New Canadian Music*. The organic and vibrant music has been unearthed through the stereos of CBC Radio 1, 2, and 3, CKUA, CJSR, and other various stations from coast to coast and internationally being aired in states such as Florida and New York. With the album, Jenie was nominated for several Edmonton Music Awards (2013, 2014) for "Artist To Watch" and "Female Artist of the Year".

In January 2014, Jenie Thai represented Northern Alberta as a semi-finalist in the Blues Foundation's 30th International Blues Challenge held in Memphis.

Vocally, she has been compared to an early Maria Muldaur and soaks in the musical influences of Tom Waits, Bonnie Raitt, Memphis Slim, Muddy Waters, Ella Fitzgerald, and Ryan Adams. A performer, song-writer, singer, and instrumentalist: Jenie Thai combines classical technique, jazz harmonics, and a life-long appreciation for blues and folk to produce a unique charm as a singer-songwriter on the Canadian folk, roots, and blues music scene.

Discography:

Only the Moon

Jenie Thai

Genre – Folk/Blues/Pop

Released April 20th, 2013



1. The Lights Are Low
2. So Lovely
3. Cold Throne
4. Your Sweet Lullaby
5. Out of Line
6. Lonely Tonight
7. Bruised, Beaten, and Worn
8. Throw Down Your Love
9. Only the Moon

Produced and engineered by Stew Kirkwood

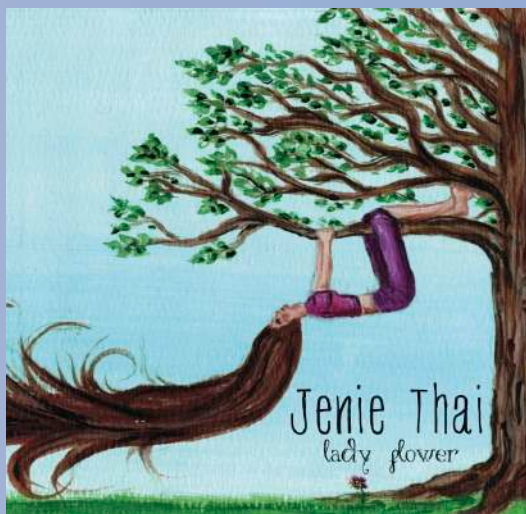
All tracks written by Jenie Thai (SOCAN)

Lady Flower

Jenie Thai

Genre – Folk/Blues/Pop

Released - Sept. 13, 2011



1. It's Only You (That I Want)
2. Sedusa
3. Monkey
4. Stop
5. Lady Flower

Produced by Jenie Thai

Engineered by Paul Bergeron

All tracks written by Jenie Thai (SOCAN)

Live videos:

So Lovely: [View Here](#)

Your Sweet Lullaby: [View Here](#)

Send Your Angels Down: [View Here](#)

Women Be Wise: [View Here](#)

I Don't Wanna Cry: [View Here](#)

Highlights:

- **January 2015:** Will be showcasing at the 6th bi-annual Blues Summit in Toronto.
- **October 2014:** Booked and performed a cross-country tour from Edmonton, AB to Aylmer, QB and back | Showcased at the Folk Music Ontario Conference in Toronto
- **September 2014:** Performed at the Jasper Folk and Blues Festival
- **July 2014:** Toured BC and AB both with trio and solo playing festivals including Kaslo Canada Day Festival, South Country Fair, and the Sasquatch Gathering
- **June 2014:** Performed at The North Country Fair

- **May 2014:** Studied blues piano with Kenny ‘Blues Boss’ Wayne for a week | Opened for Michael Kaeshammer
- **April 2014:** Nominated for “Female Artist of The Year” by the Edmonton Music Awards
- **Feb. 2014:** Showcased at The International Folk Alliance Conference in Kansas City | Featured on CTV’s Alberta Primetime Television
- **Jan. 2014:** Semi-finalist, representing Northern Alberta, in the Memphis International Blues Challenge
- **Dec. 2013:** Performed live on CBC Radio for Edmonton’s Christmas ‘Turkey Drive’
- **Oct. 2013:** Won the ‘Memphis Bound’ Blues Challenge in Edmonton | Performed live on CBC Radio for the electoral coverage of Edmonton’s Mayor
- **May 2013:** Nominated for “Artist to Watch” by the Edmonton Music Awards
- **April 2013:**
Released album “Only The Moon” which has been aired internationally | “Couch Concert Series” Tour of BC
- **August 2012:**
Performed at The Canmore Folk Festival
- **July 2012:** Western Canadian Tour with trio
- **April 2012:** The first “Couch Concert Series” Tour throughout BC



- **August 2011:** Released EP “Lady Flower” at The Edmonton Folk Music Festival
- **April 2011:** Received an honourable mention as one of thirteen finalists in the International Songwriting Competition for song “Lady Flower” which had more than 16,000 submissions

Press Quotes:

“After playing 19 shows over 30 days and attending two conferences with five showcases, blues crusher Jenie Thai considers the 8,000-km cross-Canada tour (done in a Civic she bought three days prior) to be a success.” [View Article](#)
Edmonton Examiner, Trent Wilkie

“... Thai appears to be riding her subtly sultry vocals and absolutely stellar piano skills ever higher into the Canadian blues music landscape.” [View Article](#)
The Province, Dylan Toigo

"... Jenie Thai brings a cheerful approach to career challenges.... [and] has a fondness for the whole spectrum of blues and soul sounds..." [View Article](#)
Edmonton Journal, Roger Levesque

"If adventure can flow through the veins like music through the fingers on a keyboard, Jenie Thai, born in Chiang Mai, was birthed with the call of the wild.... she managed a "lickety splickly," Tom Waits-style adventure out onto the

open road... [and] one can hear the "allegro, allegro, allegro" pounding in this young woman's soul as she kicks her way through the long piano runs..."

Kelowna Capital News, J. Smith

"...this girl is truly an old bluesy soul with a style all her own and a drive to succeed that will undoubtedly lead to a life of music, fame and fortune."

SPIN NewsMagazine, A. Earle

"Energetic, vibrant, talented, dynamic and diverse... Jenie Thai is all the regular words you might use to describe an amazing young musician only more so... [she] dances and jumps and sways while she sings and plays her piano...

Jazz, pop, folk, blues, ballads and

screamers, Jenie is well worth it no matter what you want or need in a show... look to her recordings to savour the range and depth she brings to her song writing skills.

Acoustic, electric, solo, full band, coffee shop, festival stage, Jenie Thai does it all in style."

CBC Producer, C. Martin

"...Jenie Thai played to an intimate and enraptured audience... She beamed ear-to-ear and danced in place behind her keyboard, playing boogie woogie and jazz tinged blues on her keyboard... delivered soulful vocals... scatted a little in between lines... I enjoyed her quirky lyrics and sense of humour, not to mention watching her dance, I was impressed with her vocal range, but more-so by her keyboard playing skill..."

L.A. Beat, R. Amery

"After hearing Jenie sing for only :30 seconds, I knew she was a star in the making .. easy to work with, very nice personality... and a beautiful soul."

Global Television, Morning Host Sienna Collins

Reviews of "Only The Moon":

New Canadian Music, David Farrell, 12/03/13

Edmonton-based Jenie Thai has fast made a name for herself playing living rooms, clubs and festival stages in western Canada and now the 20-something year-old classically trained pianist with a love of jazz and blues is ready to fly far with *Only the Moon*, a beautifully crafted nine-song album of original songs showcasing a voice that has the warmth and beauty of a young Maria Muldaur. The indie album was recorded mostly live off the floor at Edmonton's top rated Sound Extractor Studio and Stew Kirkwood nails every song with his sympathetic and under-stated production. Labels will be clamouring to get the jump on this one. She's an original and the album is first-rate.

[View Article](#)

New Music Michael, Michael Senchuk 10/04/13

Jenie Thai's debut album "Only the Moon" spends most of its journey dancing merrily between summer-fun-piano-pop and incredible basement-blues. The former, of course, I was expecting, based on the few times I've seen Jenie around town in the last couple years. Though, to be fair, once you listen to the lyrics, the "summer-fun" isn't always about summer fun, if you know what I mean. "The half-eaten moon is mocking me", for example, from "Lonely Tonight" – not exactly what I'd call "fun" – so maybe I need to tweak that description at some point in the future. But you get the idea.

As for the blues tracks, of which "So Lovely" might be the best example. She is so good at these, you can almost picture her in a smoky basement club in North Chicago, the smoke so thick you can barely make her out on stage. Jenie's tickling the ivories, crooning into the biggest damned silver microphone you've ever seen, and there's two beefy, grizzled African-American men in scruffy white beards playing bass and drums behind her, the bassist looking somewhat disinterested, the drummer with a couple of bottles of hard liquor on the floor next to his stool (her actual backing musicians are anything but, by the way).



And just when you have her pegged, well hang on to that for a second and let me tell you a tale. Not a fateful trip, fortunately, but I was driving around when first listening to the CD, the first pianopop song

requiring a bit of humming along, then the second song (the “So Lovely” noted above) dropping you into a basement blues club. And I’m thinking to myself, “man, she’s got some incredible range, but you know what would be cool is if she turned up the funk”, and then *BAM*, just like that, she drops the funk on the third track “Cold Throne”. Like, jaw-dropping out-the-other-side funk. And just for kicks, to prove her incredible range, she’s also included the epic-cinematic-pop masterpiece “Throw Down Your Love”, requiring you to hold your breath in its weighty anticipation.

And you know, I don't like to throw the word phenom around, it's a curse in the baseball and hockey worlds. But Jenie has such amazing talent and skill for someone of her age, that it honestly just makes you shake your head at the possibilities. Obviously she loves the type of music she



makes, you can tell by the emotion coursing through her at live shows and you can feel it in the recorded music just as easily. But you also start to let your mind wander, what would it be like to see her front a shoegaze band? Or an alt-rock act? Or an alt-country-jam band akin to Wilco? I mean, I'm sure she could do anything she set her mind to. It would be an interesting one-off, that's for sure.

The final thing that stands out are the photos in the CD packet. Bri Vos of Detour Photography did such an extraordinary job. Like, open-your-mouth-and-let-flies-fly-in good. I mean, so good that whenever a local act asks for a photographer recommendation I'm just going to say Bri

Vos and be done with it. The lighting. The poses. The composition. The setting. Like, stand back and take a bow, Bri.

Back to Jenie, though. The best summary of this album, of her as an artist, would probably be what I just told my co-worker as I lent her the CD for the weekend because I think her daughter will absolutely fall in love with it – “one of the best pianists in the city, splitting time between smoky blues and elegant piano-pop”. And yes, I guess I do talk like that in real life too.

Fort Saskatchewan Record, Trent Wilkie, 08/22/13

Jenie Thai’s *Only the Moon* isn’t like other albums. Yes, the Fort native sings and plays piano, but she’s not your typical song bird.

Moon offers far more than facade. It offers insight and effort as well as a breathy talent that flows from song to song.



Released in April of this year, Thai’s second release beats the sophomore slump that seems to systematically dilute a lot of young artists’ second efforts. Thai spins tales

throughout the album that are both contemporary and classic.

Opening with 'Lights are Low' is an introduction into Thai's range. Vocally, she is crisp and the piano compliments with a seasoned series of hooks. Full of want and hope, but still a bit melancholy, 'Lights are Low' embraces the emotion of the moment and, inherently, the emotion of the song.

'So Lovely' is an homage to her jazz roots that is led by her light fingers and followed by her raspy bar-room vocal style. This is contrasted by the next track, 'Cold Throne'. With more of a modern swing to it, 'Throne' still has elements of the saloon styled rhythms, but seems to spin away from itself in a complimentary swirl.

'Your Sweet Lullaby' starts with the lyrics, "My sweet, follow me into a dream," from that point on it is a siren call of slumber and simplicity. This song has very little pretence and is complimented by its sincerity. Drumming away down a long hall to the worlds most comfortable bed is where 'Lullaby' leads. Sweet and kind, 'Lullaby' is full of comforting notes.

'Out of Line' can be best described as the perfect song for a halfhearted attempt at saloon redemption while trying to train hop to your parents house.

There are moments in everyone's life when the song

‘Bruised, Beaten and Worn’ is relevant. It is a howl at the moon, condemning it and at the same time thanking it. In this, Thai shows that all emotions, even the worst, are better to feel than to feel nothing at all.

Thai lets her vocals shine in ‘Throw Down Your Love’, like a voice from the wilderness, she creates a syncopated fairy tale world where her piano is her horse and the world is on fire. One of the stronger songs on the album it is an example of her control and creativity.

Ending the album with her title track ‘Only the Moon’, Thai creates a subtle good-bye. Encapsulating the album in a song, it knits together all the best parts of the album leaving the listener comforted that even though the album is almost over, you can always listen to it again.

Leicester Bangs, UK Blog, 07/20/13

Jenie Thai was born in Thailand to a large musical family and was raised just outside Edmonton, Alberta. Thai’s own prodigious talents were soon spotted and at age five she began private tuition on the piano, played at camps, workshops and festivals, eventually studying at Grant MacEwan University, and graduating in Jazz and Contemporary Music.

In-between she found her own particular sound, a musical space that connects artists like Joanna Newsom, Nina Simone, Joni Mitchell and Regina Specter – and that’s not a bad place to be. Her ability to combine literate

songwriting with classic boho jazz influences definitely stands her out from the crowd and makes her debut long-player something of a revelation.



Apart from the jazz and songwriting influences that have obviously impacted her approach to music, Thai's innate knack for pop accessibility is equally striking. On

“Only The Moon” she’s produced a nine-track collection that’s complex and layered, yet incredibly easy to engage with.

On “Your Sweet Lullaby” rolling percussion underpins Thai’s strident piano playing and yearning vocal – great stuff. “Out of Line” kicks the doors in and wrecks the joint with a country-blues stomp that Jerry Lee would have been proud of and “Lonely Tonight” steps delicately though Rickie Lee Jones territory.

Bookending the album, opener “The Lights Are Low” is custom built for grown-up radio, with a quite lovely vocal from Thai, and a pristine jazz-pop backing. Closing with the title track, we get to hear a little of the fruits of Thai’s classical training and it concludes with the sweetest song on the record.

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Links:

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/jeniethai

Bandcamp: jeniethai.bandcamp.com

“Only The Moon” on iTunes: [Click Here](#)



