

Biography

Atlantic Records Bio

Jewel

Singer, songwriter, and storyteller...

Author, actress, and activist...

With worldwide sales of over 20 million records, Atlantic recording artist Jewel is unquestionably one of today's most beloved and respected performers. Her forthcoming second HarperCollins book, *Chasing Down The Dawn*, sees the exceptionally gifted talent crafting a collection of short stories and opening her intimate journals to reveal a vivid montage of the people, places, and passages that have defined and enriched her. A striking chronicle of an artist's turbulent life on the road – as written primarily during the 1999 "SPIRIT" World Tour – *Chasing Down The Dawn* offers photos taken by Jewel, images from Jewel's childhood in Alaska, her beginnings as a struggling musician, and the challenges faced as a daughter, sister, and woman. Within its pages, Jewel has painted an extraordinary and honest portrait of the journey that brought her to the world stage.

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From her childhood in the wilds of Alaska, to her early days as a songwriter trying to make ends meet on the San Diego folk scene, it has indeed proven to be a life uncommon for Jewel. That truth has been even more dramatically borne out during the past five years, as she has risen to the top of the Billboard charts and gone on to international renown as a uniquely multi-dimensional artist.

She first stepped into the national spotlight at the age of 20 with the 1995 release of her Atlantic Records debut, "PIECES OF YOU." Fuelled by the hit singles "Who Will Save Your Soul" and the RIAA-platinum "You Were Meant For Me/Foolish Games," "PIECES OF YOU" eventually climbed its way to the top 5 on the Billboard 200 on its way to a RIAA Diamond Award certification (for over 10 million records sold).

Currently certified 11-times-platinum by the RIAA, the Ben Keith-produced album spent a stunning 114 weeks on the Billboard 200, and is now firmly ensconced on Billboard's "Top Pop Catalog Albums" chart.

Jewel spent the many months following her debut's release on the road, doing what she does best: playing her songs to the people. She worked seemingly non-stop for some two years, playing multiple-night club residencies, support stints with artists like Neil Young and Bob Dylan, and a well-received set at Farm Aid '96. She even found time to star as Dorothy, alongside Roger Daltrey and Jackson Browne, in 1995's *The Wizard Of Oz In Concert* extravaganza.

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In the summer of 1997, in the midst of establishing herself as a major new headlining performer, Jewel signed on with Sarah McLachlan's celebrated Lilith Fair festival tour. While receiving both audience and critical raves throughout the cross-country trek, that summer also found Jewel featured on the cover of *Time* magazine – a distinction historically accorded few musicians. Along the way, she has also been featured on the covers of *Rolling Stone* – twice – *Vogue*, *People*, *Reader's Digest*, *Glamour*, *Details*, *Seventeen*, and *Interview*.

Jewel's debut poetry collection, *A Night Without Armor*, was released in May 1998, and quickly became a mainstay of *The New York Times*' best-seller list, with 29 printings and a remarkable million-plus copies sold. In addition, the unprecedented success of the audiobook release of her poetry collection saw Jewel receiving the 1999 Audie Award from the Audio Publishers Association. (Along with the hardcover release of *Chasing Down The Dawn*, HarperCollins will also issue two-and-a-half hours of unabridged selections from the book– read by Jewel – as a double-CD set and cassette.)

Released in November, 1998, Jewel's highly-anticipated second album, "SPIRIT," debuted in the #3 spot on the Billboard 200 and was certified platinum out of the box, followed by a RIAA double-platinum certification just two weeks later. The Patrick Leonard-produced album – currently certified quadruple-platinum – features the singles "Down So Long," "Jupiter (Swallow the Moon)," and "Hands," a top 10 Billboard "Hot 100" hit.

"SPIRIT" received a bounty of glowing reviews upon its release. *Newsweek*'s Veronica Chambers hailed the album as "wonderful," calling it a "collection of sweet, soulful songs that build on each other, asking questions and answering them." *Time* professed "SPIRIT" to be "a terrific CD," noting that Jewel's "vocals are richer, and her songwriting is sharper," while *USA Today*'s Edna Gunderson cited the record's "charming earnestness," declaring it "a refinement of the rough and tumble debut that vaulted her to fame."

On top of any number of tours covering North America, Jewel has also performed to sell-out crowds all over the world, including concerts in Asia, Australia, and Europe, where she was acclaimed – by the influential *Times* of London – as "the most sparkling female

singer-songwriter since Joni Mitchell.” In January, 1998, she was welcomed home to San Diego to sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” prior to the opening kick-off of Super Bowl XXXII. In December of that same year, Jewel played for Pope John Paul II as part of the 6th Annual Natale in Vaticano

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- 3 -concert in Vatican City. The concert – which included a performance of “Hands” accompanied by a 100-piece orchestra and a 40-member choir – was televised throughout Europe on Christmas Eve. Back home, she also sang in New York City at the annual Christmas In Rockefeller Center broadcast, which was viewed by more than 10 million people around the world.

Since the initial stages of her career, Jewel has also been active in her involvement with charitable endeavors. In January 1999, Jewel, with her mother Lenedra Carroll, launched Higher Ground for Humanity, a non-profit foundation dedicated to promoting global community and individual action to inspire positive change. HGH endorses organizations that advance humanitarian principles and operate on the basis of higher values. The foundation pursues its mission through education, research, innovative partnering, and program development in the areas of youth, the arts, the environment, alternative health care, spiritual growth, and global community building.

To celebrate the establishment of Higher Ground for Humanity, Jewel – in association with Vogue magazine – performed a series of concerts in January 1999 to raise awareness of the foundation, including a performance in Aspen, Colorado which was later broadcast by VH1. In March, HGH co-sponsored a youth forum in conjunction with the Global Bridge Foundation – dubbed the “Being The Difference That Makes The Difference” Conference – on the campus of UCLA. More youth participated than was anticipated and the workshop offered support to Los Angeles’ teenage leaders in the creation of after-school programs, in addition to laying the groundwork for teens to improve personal relationships and better take care of themselves and their peers.

Since the release of “PIECES OF YOU,” Jewel has been the recipient of a great many honors, including – among other accolades – the 1997 American Music Award for “Best New Artist,” the 1997 MTV Video Music Award for “Best Female Video,” and three Grammy Award nominations. In June 1999, she was presented with the prestigious Governor’s Award from the Los Angeles chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). The award acknowledges Academy members “whose creative talents and accomplishments have crossed all musical boundaries and have been recognized as an asset to our music community.”

She also received a number of other tributes that year, including the 1999 “Founder’s Choice Award” from the non-profit Time For Peace organization, as

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well as being named one of Glamour magazine’s 10th Anniversary “Women Of The Year” for her dedication to humanitarian goals. Specifically noted was Higher Ground for

Humanity's Clearwater Project, which is devoted to providing safe, clean drinking water to impoverished areas of the world. The Clearwater Project will be the primary focus for HGH for the rest of 2000 and all of 2001. The group's scientists and collaborators are currently traveling to Honduras, Tanzania, India, and Bangladesh to lay the groundwork for a number of exciting, new endeavors.

While much of Summer 1999 was spent traveling the globe with her "SPIRIT" World Tour, Sunday, July 25th found Jewel performing before the largest live audience of her career – not to mention millions of TV viewers around the world – as she and her band rocked Woodstock '99. Despite a sudden downpour in the middle of "Foolish Games," the set was widely considered a highpoint of the three-day festival.

In October 1999, Jewel played as part of the massive NetAid concert at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The global musical event was staged as part of a long-term initiative to help eradicate extreme poverty. An exclusive live recording of "Life Uncommon" was released as a single in conjunction with NetAid, with proceeds benefiting the Clearwater Project. December saw Jewel performing for President and Mrs. Clinton as part of the annual Christmas In Washington charity concert assisting the Children's National Health Center.

Along with her many music and charity-related activities, Fall 1999 found Jewel making an acclaimed acting debut in Ang Lee's much-admired Civil War drama, *Ride With The Devil*. "Jewel conveys an orneriness and tough humor beneath a facade of 19th-century decorum," declared the *New York Times*' Stephen Holden, while Roger Ebert – writing in the *Chicago Sun Times* – noted that "Jewel deserves praise for, quite simply, performing her character in a convincing and unmannered way. She is an actress here, not a pop star trying out a new hobby."

Atlantic's "RIDE WITH THE DEVIL: ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK" featured a remixed version of "What's Simple Is True" (originally found on "SPIRIT"), along with composer Mychael Danna's film score.

Even with her incredibly busy schedule, Jewel still managed to make time to serve as a special guest on country legend – and longtime Jewel hero – Merle

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- 5 - Haggard's 1999 "FOR THE RECORD." The album includes two duets between Jewel and Haggard: "That's The Way Love Goes" and "Silver Wings." The two also teamed up to perform at the 33rd Annual Country Music Association Awards (broadcast live on CBS from the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville), as well as on Haggard's live Pay-Per View concert, Merle Haggard: For The Record.

1999 also saw the Atlantic release of Jewel's autobiographical documentary, titled *Jewel: A Life Uncommon*. The full-length home video includes archival footage of the artist's life – both on and off the road – as well as revealing interviews with some of her closest friends and family. In addition, the video features four exclusive live performances from Jewel's concert benefiting Higher Ground for Humanity, held in April, 1999 at Los Angeles' Henry Fonda Theater.

Jewel wrapped up her amazing 1999 with the release of “JOY: A HOLIDAY COLLECTION,” which includes performances of a number of seasonal favorites and new originals, including a unique Christmas-themed version of “Hands.” Two songs featured on the platinum-certified “JOY” reveal the increasing depth and diversity of the artist’s talent and vision: the dynamic expression of faith, “Face of Love,” as well as the stirring “Gloria,” a distinctive musical statement inspired by J.S. Bach’s B Minor Mass, as combined with Latin liturgy.

To coincide with the release of “JOY,” Jewel filmed a special holiday installment of PBS’ acclaimed Sessions At West 54th, a performance which paired her with a full orchestra and choir conducted by the legendary producer/arranger Arif Mardin (who also helmed the “JOY” recording sessions).

Throughout her professional career, Jewel has repeatedly appeared on many high-profile television programs, including Saturday Night Live, The Rosie O’Donnell Show, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Conan O’Brien, Today, Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Live! Regis & Kathie Lee, Charlie Rose, The View, VH1 Storytellers, and MTV’s Total Request Live and MTV Live.

In February 2000, Jewel taped an installment of PBS’ venerable Austin City Limits. The show – a rare full hour devoted to a single artist – saw Jewel performing solo acoustic as well as accompanied by her touring band. Among the hour’s highlights was a duet between Jewel and her old friend, singer/songwriter Steve Poltz, as well as the first-ever public performances of three brand-new songs: “Break Me,” “Stephenville,” and “Rosy and Mick.”

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- 6 -In addition to her many artistic activities, Jewel has long been active in utilizing new media technology, via her official www.jeweljk.com site. The web page offers frequently updated news, exclusive merchandise, and most importantly, links to a number of humanitarian sites supported by Jewel and HGH, including the Clearwater Project (which can also be accessed at www.clearwaterproject.com).

In August of 2000, Jewel performed songs at the Nashville rally where Vice President Al Gore announced his running mate, Senator Joseph Lieberman. She has since become actively involved in the Gore/Lieberman 2000 presidential campaign, serving as an eloquent spokesperson with a matchless ability to connect with America’s young people. As in most everything she applies her energy and effort to, this latest endeavor underscores the extent to which Jewel leads with her heart. Whether on stage, on film, or in print, it has been her ever-present guide, serving to define her artistic voice and open wide the window to a place of unadorned honesty. For Jewel, living the uncommon life has simply been a matter of being herself.

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