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# LISA BOUCHELLE

A Local Chanteuse Goes Global

By Emelyne Smith

Bucks County singer-songwriter Lisa Bouchelle is a rising star on the national and international music scenes. Her latest CD "Paint Your Dreams," has been released to much acclaim in both the U.S. and Japan. Having opened for Bryan Adams, Nancy Sinatra, Kansas, Hot Tuna and others, this classically-trained artist's future seems to hold limitless possibilities.

**What were you like growing up, and how did you initially get into playing music?**

I was always a natural performer. I think this profession picked me, I didn't pick it.

**How would you describe your musical style?**

I think it's a cross between pop and singer-songwriter music. There's maybe a little R&B influence also. It's sort of a mix between Tori Amos, Sheryl Crow, even some of the old Johnny Cash stuff.

**You've opened for and worked with a lot of prominent musicians. Are there any memories in particular that stand out?**

I remember my first time opening for Bryan Adams and being backstage while he and his band were sitting with their big hospitality spread, and my band was there with our little hospitality spread. Bryan Adams invited us over and we were like, "No thanks, it's okay." But he was really nice, taking pictures with us and everything. It was also incredible performing with Rob Thomas, Daryl Hall and Cyndi Lauper. I shared a microphone with Rob Thomas and we were doing a little cha-cha dance. It was the craziest thing.

**Why have you chosen to stay in the Philadelphia area, rather than pack up and move to Hollywood or New York?**

Well, I can get up to New York in an hour-and-a-half, so why spend the extra money to live there? The house I live in is freestanding, so I have space and I can keep my strange hours, staying up recording until 4 am and sleeping until noon sometimes. The west coast may be in my future, but we'll have to see.

**You're big in Japan. What do you think your Japanese fans relate to in your music?**

When I was 18 or 19 years old, I performed with a progressive band that was popular in Japan. I'd had 12 years of operatic voice training and I think the Japanese really appreciate technical music and singing. "Paint Your Dreams" is already out in Japan and it's doing great.

**When you're not performing or recording, what do you like to do for fun and relaxation?**

Believe or not, I go to the gym every day and that relaxes me. I like to write songs on the guitar for fun. It's my job, but I don't consider it work.

**What kinds of music are you currently listening to? Are there any new artists out there that we should check out?**

Yes, you should definitely check out Myshkin's Ruby Warblers. They started in New Orleans but then moved to Portland. Other than that, I like to listen to a lot of classic rock, and to people like Bruce Springsteen and Sheryl Crowe.

**Since your album is called "Paint Your Dreams," let's talk about dreams. Do you usually remember your dreams, and do you ever find meaning in them?**

I remember a lot of my dreams. Usually the meanings are obvious to me. And I always dream in color, by the way.