



JULIE CHRISTENSEN 11 FROM KEVIN: SONGS OF KEVIN GORDON
OUT JAN. 21. 2022



Having built her career forging connections through song - including stints as **Leonard Cohen's** backing vocalist - Christensen knows the value of a good composition. She recognized Kevin Gordon's cinematically sweeping emotional and physical landscapes and their terrain, because she'd traveled it, too. She decided in early 2020 someone ought to record an entire collection of the Louisiana native's songs. The result, **11 from Kevin: Songs of Kevin Gordon**, is out on Jan. 21, 2022 - Christensen's birthday - on Wirebird Records..

Christensen and **Brett Ryan Stewart** co-produced an album that almost refuses to be genre-typed. On "Gloryland," an indictment of false prophets, Christensen intones over jagged-edge guitars; on "Following a Sign," about a wandering faith healer, **Brent Moyers'** horns lend grace to its understated dignity. Guitarist **Chris Tench** and guitar/dobro/mandolin player **Sergio Webb** provide standout moments throughout. Other contributors include **Gregory Boaz** on bass and **Chris Benelli** on drums.

"There's that small-town thing," she says. "'Crowville' could be an Iowa town; 'Joey and Clara' could be little Iowa kids." The way Kevin elides his words and melodies together, they're really haunting to me." One single, extraordinary line in "Gatling Gun" — *But my tongue remembers the shape of her name* — and one can see why an artist might do an entire album of his songs. On a line from "Down to the Well" - *a face I recognize looking right through me* - she hits a high note on "through" that penetrates with a heart-cutting stab as deep as that cold stare of nonrecognition.

"People in Austin said I sang jazz with a country accent," she says. That accent remained part of her sound in L.A., fitting right into the rockabilly-revved punk scene anchored by X, the Blasters and Los Lobos - all of whom contributed members to the Flesh Eaters, fronted by Chris Desjardins (aka Chris D). Christensen and Desjardins joined forces as the **Divine Horsemen** in 1983 - and as husband and wife for a time. She sang on five tracks of The Flesh Eaters reunion album in 2018. That led to a Divine Horsemen revival, and the 2021 release of their first new work in 33 years, *Hot Rise of an Ice Cream Phoenix*.

In 1988, Austin bassist **Roscoe Beck** became Leonard Cohen's musical director. He enlisted Christensen for backing and duet vocals on the tour of Europe and North America that year, and in 1990, Julie signed with Polygram. Her Todd Rundgren-produced debut album got buried in a label reorganization. When Christensen joined Cohen's 1993 tour, she had remarried and become a mother, and in 1996 she released her first of 8 solo albums. Christensen hit Nashville in 2013. She home-recorded her vocals in mid-2020 and the band safely recorded for *11 From Kevin*.

Christensen is fluent in blues, folk, punk and even what she calls "Great Plains soul." She's explored a broad range of other artists' work: Darrin Bradbury, Tim Easton, Jim Lauderdale...among many including Cohen, most notably in the 2005 documentary, *Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man*. "I'm inspired by Bonnie Raitt, Joe Ely and others who've made their names picking great songs by songwriters others might not know, as if they're saying, 'I've gotta let you in on this secret.' Since I have a voice, I'm going to sing it." That voice earned her induction into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame, as well as a long list of admiring peers and collaborators. After a listen to these *11 from Kevin* tracks, the tongues of Gordon's fans, Christensen's fans or previously uncommitted listeners should also remember the shape of her name.

"GLIDE is excited to premiere her rendition of "Find My Way..." Christensen exudes soul as she absorbs the song and presents it in her own fashion. Christensen gives it a bluesy Southern rock treatment that brightens the track even more. Her vocals get amplified by greasy slide guitar...ultimately giving the track a full sound that truly showcases just how great of a songwriter Gordon is while also putting her vocals in the spotlight. " - Glide Magazine

For more information regarding **11 From Kevin: Songs of Kevin Gordon** or Julie Christensen, contact **Bill Wence Promotions** - billwencepro@earthlink.net (615) 776-2060
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