



X A N D A H O W E - Biography

Xanda Howe is probably one of the most lyrical and cinematic singer-songwriters to have emerged in the UK in recent years. Often likened to Kate Bush, Jewel and Tori Amos, Xanda's music is moving, poetic, dramatic and contemporary in a timeless fashion.

Despite sounding like a scene from a movie, Xanda really was discovered while working as a waitress. Songphonic boss, Osman Kent, was a regular diner at Café Blue in Virginia Water where Xanda worked part-time, and the owner persuaded him to hear Xanda's demo.

Osman invited her to record a further demo at his studio and was so impressed that he offered her a development contract on the spot. Xanda was mid-way through her degree at the time but decided the opportunity was too good to miss. So she quit Bath University, signed up to Songphonic Records and spent 2003 writing and recording.

These sessions produced a collection of songs that are both beautiful and surprisingly diverse in style. Co-writing all but two of the eleven original songs, she demonstrates an incredible maturity for her 21 years. The album which has recently been released under the Songphonic label to critical acclaim, is arguably one of the most moving and evocative releases of 2004.

Born in South Africa, she moved to the UK at the age of three and her family settled in Surrey. Xanda has been performing from a very young age, singing, acting and playing sax, and always wanted to be a serious artist.

Xanda is a keen traveller who takes her musical influences from the countries she visits. She is also a trained actress and teaches aerobics classes. Full of energy and girlish charm, she's mad about her new Mini and dreams of owning a wardrobe full of Jimmy Choo shoes.

Xanda's musical influences range from Joni Mitchell to George Michael, Annie Lennox to Nelly Furtado, but it was her moving rendition of a Tom Waits' classic, "Time", which clinched her recording contract. The original audition recording, with Osman accompanying on piano, is included as a bonus track on her debut album, **And How**.

She is currently busy writing and recording her next album with Songphonic Records.

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