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KARLA CHISHOLM

In a booth leaning against the window, her pixie-do'd head framed against the iconic Starbuckian orb, one leg up, chin resting atop entwined fingers, Karla Chisholm seems the subject of a modern day Victorian sketch. Joyfully contemplative amidst the caffeine enabled cacophony. A perfect mix of dichotomies waiting for the paint.

Even before she sees me, I know that she has that indelible quality that is so rarified. That something that asks your glance but doesn't need it to turn away. Comfortable. Welcoming. And then something catches her attention, and I watch an easy smile spill into out loud laughter. Life's music. Needle drops to vinyl, and the soundtrack begins...

Your sound is unique... who is on your playlist right now? Lately I've been diggin' on Jason Mraz, Gretchen Parlato and Nancy Wilson. I love Jason's lyrics and vocal bag of tricks. He'll scat one minute then bust out a beautiful contra tenor sound that sends chills. I like how Gretchen's melodic and rhythmic ideas make her voice literally an instrument. Nancy's phrasing is so intimate. Check out "Time After Time" and hold on to your heart-strings.

Do you have a mantra that keeps you focused? Yes! "Everything works out." I repeat this when life gets messy and try to focus on the macro not the micro. In the end everything does work out, even if it's not the way you expected and that's totally ok. It's more about the ride than the destination.

What would surprise people about you? I love Zombie movies, I'm a Sci-fi geek, I've helped teach break dancing classes, and I am not a vegetarian.

Why would people assume that you don't eat meat?

"...my first choice was Captain Jean-Luc Picard, who is, to me, the ideal man. But he wasn't available."

I think people hear my music and see that I have a kind of bohemian thing going on and they make all kinds of assumptions, like I'm a vegetarian, or I shop at Trader Joe's and drive a hybrid car (she laughs). I would love a hybrid car and I do like Trader Joes, but I don't have the need to be a name brand shopper and right now my Versa gets the job done.

There are a lot of references to love on "Moving On."

Well, it is all ya need, right? (Counting on her fingers)

The first two songs are about the beginnings of love when everything is new and exciting and incredibly romantic. Believe me, I could go on and on. I love the love! "Mexico" is about a friend's heartbreak. She wasn't ready to be angry, so I was angry for her.

"Losing Control," which is probably my most vulnerable song, proves that something beautiful can come out of a horrible day. "Sun and Moon" is a story about the cyclical dance of attraction and "The One" is about—arrival—knowing who you are, what you want and having found your perfect puzzle piece.

Have you found, "the one?"

Yes! I wrote "The One" after date #1 with my hubby Todd. He is definitely "the one" for me. But if I'm being totally honest, he was my second choice... my first choice was Captain Jean-Luc Picard, who is, to me, the ideal man. But he wasn't available.

There are a lot of references to doors in your lyrics. Why is that?

Doors are a metaphor for forward movement. They represent change and hope for something better. The key is remembering that in life, you are never stuck.

If you were not a singer/songwriter, what would you be doing?

I would open a funky little coffee house. I managed one in Texas for years and really enjoy the culture. It's less about caffeine and more about community.

What type of listener appreciates your music?

I'd like to think of my music as both accessible and intellectual. My fans often appreciate the deeper subtext of my music, but only after they can repeat a catchy hook. I mean, who doesn't like a good old fashioned sing-along? I know I do!

What's Next?

Lots of great new tunes and a dance remix of "Lover's Wonderland!" I'm hoping to use my break dancing skills again.

