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Music Feature: Johanna Sillanpaa

You can find information about Johanna Sillanpaa on many jazz websites. And if you had to categorize her music, jazz is probably where you would put it, but there is so much more. In the past she has sung with R and B, funk and soul groups. You can hear undertones of R and B, soul, and pop in the songs on her debut solo CD, Good Life, available at [Megatunes](#). The one thing constant you will find on all the songs is sultry vocals, with smoky lows and beautiful clear high notes.

Originally from Sweden, Sillanpaa competed in talent competitions throughout Scandanavia and worked on cruise ships. She moved to Canada in the 90's and completed the Music Program at Grant MacEwen College in Edmonton and then studied jazz vocals with Sheila Jordan and Jay Clayton at the Banff School of Fine Arts. She has sung with various groups over the years and is well-known on the Calgary scene for her work in Sillan and Young. Aaron Young, her partner from that project produced and plays guitar on Good Life.

Many of the songs on the CD were borne of improvisation. Johanna has often mentioned that her answering machine is always full - of messages from herself with various ideas for songs, so that nothing gets lost. Many of the songs, such as [One More Day](#), tend to have darker undertones to the lyrics, but a light and gentle arrangement. [Suck It Up](#) and [Spend Some Time](#) are bouncy, fun songs with an in-your-face, I?m-not-going-to-put-up-with-crap attitude. On the flip side, there is the song [On The Other Side](#), a tender look at those who has passed on, written in memory of a friend's father.



Good Life

1. Sometimes
2. [On The Other Side](#)
3. [Suck It Up](#)
4. Good Life
5. Hush
6. Waste It Good
7. [One More Day](#)
8. My Oh My
9. [Spend Some Time](#)
10. Thank You

Additional Info:

- <http://www.johannamusic.com/bio.htm>
- <http://www.jazzelements.com/11/27/jazz-vocalist-johanna-sillanpaa-in-edmonton-Friday/>
- <http://www.jazzpolice.com/content/view/6696/2/>
- <http://megatunes.clearetail.com/content.php?intFileID=2>

Past Features

- Jun 2007: Pressure Kill Common Style
- May 2007: Woodpigeon
- Apr 2007: Fraid Knot
- Mar 2007: Ben Rose
- Feb 2007: Chad VanGaalén
- Jan 2007: The Dudes

Have a local (Alberta) musician or band you'd like to suggest to be featured? Please contact our Music Feature Team, , at music@calgarycultureclub.com.

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