

Norah Jones - Bio

Norah Jones was born on March 30th 1979 in Brooklyn, New York City. When she was four years old, Norah and her mother Sue, a nurse, relocated to the Dallas suburb of Grapevine, Texas. Her mother had an extensive record collection and music could always be heard in their home. By the age of five Norah was singing in church choirs, by seven she was taking piano lessons, and during junior high Jones had a flirtation with the alto sax in her school marching band. In order that Norah could attend Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, the pair moved into central Dallas when Norah was 15. The following year Norah played her first coffeehouse open mic, and sang "I'll Be Seeing You." In 1996 Jones won the Down Beat magazine Student Music Awards for *Best Jazz Vocalist* and *Best Original Composition*, and scored another *Best Jazz Vocalist* award the following year. Graduating from Booker T., Norah enrolled in the music programme at the University of North Texas in Denton, as a jazz piano major. During this period she sang with a jazz-rock band called Laszlo. Having completed her sophomore year at North Texas, Norah sublet a friend's flat in Greenwich Village for the summer of 1999, and never returned to her studies. She soon became an active participant in the city's jazz scene. The Living Room became one of her favourite haunts, and for around a year she sang with Wax Poetic, a funk-fusion band. Norah sang "Angel" on their self-titled Y2K album. In time Jones founded her own band around the core of Jesse Harris [guitar], Lee Alexander [bass] and Dan Rieser [drums]. A music industry accountant, Shell White, saw Jones perform in a local club – legend states that it happened on Norah's twenty-first birthday - and contacted Bruce Lundvall, the president of Blue Note Records. In October 2000 the quartet recorded demos for the prestigious jazz imprint. Jones inked a recording contract with the label the following January. When Charlie Hunter cut his **"Songs From The Analog Playground"** [2001], Norah supplied the vocals on "More Than This" the Brian Ferry composed Roxy Music favourite, and Nick Drake's "Day Is Done." Jones has toured and performed with Hunter's group. Pre-production of **"Come Away With Me"** took place at Allaire Studios in Shokan, New York [near Woodstock] with Craig Street overseeing the sessions. Jones' quartet went to record the [remainder of her debut] album at Sorcerer Sound in Manhattan during August 2001 with the legendary Arif Mardin in charge of production. Guest players on the sessions included Bill Frisell (guitar) and Brian Blade (drums). As a precursor to her debut album, Norah issued a six song EP titled **"First Sessions"** last year. Only "Something Is Calling You" and "Peace" didn't resurface on **"Come Away With Me"** which was issued in late February 2002.

[P.S. Not that it's anyone else's business but Norah's. Sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar is her father].

Discography : **"First Sessions"** [2001] ; **"Come Away With Me"** [2002].

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