

## Christine Kane – Bio

Christine Kane was born and raised in Fairfax, Virginia, a time she recalled in the song “The Way Clouds Do” on her 2002 album **“Rain And Mud And Wild And Green.”** After studying for and gaining a Journalism degree from Boston College, Kane returned to the D.C. area for a period of eight months. Restless, she upped sticks and moved to that *folk music haven* [or is that *heaven*] - Asheville, North Carolina. Life is a series of choices, or roads to be taken and Christine’s decision to pursue a career as a musician did not initially meet with approval from her parents. I guess they were *expecting a house, a husband and 3.2 kids* but that wasn’t Christine’s goal. To supplement her income as a musician, for a time, Kane worked as a waitress.

Kane’s first years as a writer/performer were tentative, nerve racked and self-conscious affairs. The story goes that for her first open-mic she drove to a Waynesville bar, some 25 miles west of Asheville in the hope that no one would recognise her. Persevering, open mics became a thing of the past, and Christine began performing at local venues such as Black Mountain’s Town Pump and Asheville’s now defunct Be Here Now. In 1996 Kane cut her debut CD, **“This Time Last Year,”** in a friend’s basement studio. Later that year, the opening track “Off The Ground” was included on Putumayo’s *female only* compilation **“Women’s Work.”** On the latter disc, Kane’s song rubbed shoulders with cuts by Janis Ian, Ani DiFranco and Eliza Gilkyson.

Her debut set had been a co-production with Richard Birt and the same team saw Kane’s sophomore disc **“A Thousand Girls”** through to fruition. The following year Kane was named as one of the top three college performers by Campus Activities Today magazine. By this stage Kane had begun touring the nation’s listening clubs and began appearing at annual festivals such as Chattanooga’s Riverbend and Asheville’s Bele Chere, as well as the Madison Folk Festival and the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

In Y2K Christine was one of the winners of the Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest, and she released an album, appropriately titled, **“Live,”** which was cut at The Down Home in Johnson City, Tennessee. The recording included three previously unrecorded Kane compositions. Richard Birt relocated to Florida in 2001 and, in the process, left the music business. Undaunted, and ready to cut album # four, Christine made a list of her favourite *folk music* producers and then sent an E-Mail to Ben Wisch [Marc Cohn, Kathy Mattea] who immediately indicated an interest in working with her. **“Rain And Mud And Wild And Green”** was recorded in New York City at Wisch’s studio and one of the later studio sessions began on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2001. The album was released in early April 2002. The song, “Everything Green,” was inspired by Julia Butterfly Hill’s 2001 book **“Legacy of Luna : The Story of A Tree, A Woman And the Struggle To Save The Redwoods”** [ISBN: 0062516590].

On several occasions, Christine has appeared with Sister Helen Prejan [author of **“Dead Man Walking”**] at social justice programs and concerts. In addition Christine has opened for such fellow performers such as Nanci Griffith, Los Lobos, the Beach Boys, Shawn Colvin and Rosanne Cash. The documentary filmmaker Wayne Miller [a long time fan of Christine’s] asked her to write a song for his latest movie. Kane’s song, “A Shade Of Gray,” was subsequently adopted as the title of the documentary film. At the Worldfest 2002 International Film Festival held in Houston, Miller’s film won the gold medal in the Historical Short category. Re-edited and now titled **“Hello Girls,”** the film was scheduled to be shown at a number of film festivals during 2003. Christine’s fourth studio collection **“Right Outta Nowhere”** was recorded in Nashville, and Kane co-produced it with Dave Pomeroy. The eleven-track album, all Kane originals including three co-writes with Steve Seskin, closed with the amusing *live cut*, “Mary Catherine’s Ash Wednesday Journal Entry.”

In 2003 Christine began a series of short retreats titled “Great Big Dreams.” They take place over a three-day weekend, and in recent times she has undertaken four retreats spread seasonally throughout the year – the lectures embrace the “practical” and the “spiritual” elements of daily life - and further details can be found on her web site. In addition to penning and performing original music, Kane also undertakes a number of writing, songwriting and life skills workshops. In 2006 and 2007, Christine toured with the North Carolina Dance Theatre in support of a ballet titled **“I’m With You”** that was choreographed using her music. The DVD **“Live At The Diana Wortham Theatre”** recorded at an Asheville venue, was released in the Spring of 2007. The disc contained a twenty-five minute long interview with Kane, plus an over two-hour long concert performance. The sixteen songs featured, included two previously unrecorded numbers, “The Real World” and “What The Hell Am I Doing With My Life?” For budding guitar players, on her web site, Christine also offered a supplementary DVD titled **“Backstage Guitar Lesson.”**

solo : **“This Time Last Year”** [1996] ; **“A Thousand Girls”** [1997] ; **“Live”** [2000] ; **“Rain And Mud And Wild And Green”** [2002] ; **“Right Outta Nowhere”** [2004] :

DVD : **“Live At The Diana Wortham Theatre”** [2007] :

**Arthur Wood**

Kerrville Kronikles 01/03, 06/04 and 06/07.

[850 words]