

Liana Conway



"You don't want to miss this/For anything, anything in the world" **"Walk in the Sun"** LianaConway.com

One listen to Liana Conway's smooth, irresistible, confident voice, and you will be shocked to learn that she is just 20 years old.

"Words like sugar, are melting on your mouth," she coos on "Walk in the Sun," a song she wrote about a childhood friend who spent summers with her in Cape Cod, but Liana may as well be describing the effect on a listener hearing her sing.

With a brash, sunny confidence, the Massachusetts native's soulful vocals, equal parts R&B, blues, pop and jazz, recall the relaxed stylings of Norah Jones, James Taylor, Roberta Flack and Carole King, with a keen ability to evoke their narrative writing style in a clever turn-of-phrase that sticks.

"I've always loved words," says Liana, recalling how she taught herself to read when she was three, about the same time she discovered her father's Time-Life compilation tape from 1969, featuring Sly and the Family Stone, the Temptations, the Jackson 5, the Fifth Dimension and other pop-soul greats of the time. "I learned early on combining just the right words can create these amazing things called sentences. I learned that the perfect string of words can be priceless. It's what represents you, gives you your voice, your credibility, and most importantly, it connects you to others. When I was 12, I began writing down what I call my 'word vomit' in Strawberry Shortcake notebooks whenever I felt passionate about something—good or bad—usually several times a day."

Those words formed the basis of her early songwriting. "I base so much of what I am on my childhood," says Liana.

At the same time, she used to sing the songs she listened to on her dad's albums and cassettes into a "little red and yellow My First Sony tape player with a microphone attached," wherever I was... the back of the car, in my bedroom."

At 16, Liana talked her mom into buying her a guitar at Guitar Center to turn all those personal experiences and feelings into song.

"There's something about putting a melody behind words that make them come across 100 times more powerfully," says Liana, who left Boston College after her sophomore year to relocate in Nashville, where she was previously an intern at the Nashville Songwriters Association International.

"I had heard people came there and just didn't want to leave, especially if you love music," she says. "And it's true. I just loved it. There was music everywhere. And I have really come to love country music, for its storytelling and imagery. They talk about concrete things, with specific descriptions. Country music is a major reason why I started writing songs in the first place. I wanted to write songs that touched people."



And she's already doing just that.

Writing and recording in Nashville and Los Angeles with Phoenix Stone, the noted producer who has worked with and produced an array of artists, from the legendary Art Garfunkel to the Backstreet Boys, among others, Liana has crafted a stunning debut collection that showcases the warmth and intimacy of her vocals, along with the depth of her songwriting.

Realizing any 20-year-old singer/songwriter trying to break into the music industry will be compared to Taylor Swift—even though her music is more in the style of folk-blues-soul artists like Carole King, James Taylor or Jack Johnson—Liana is a big fan of the multi-platinum superstar.

"I love her sometimes painful honesty, her ability to write songs that are truthful and that people can relate to," says Conway. "She says things in ways that are exactly what you're thinking of feeling without being able to put it into words. And that's why I started writing songs."

That comes through in self-penned tunes like "Walk in the Sun" and "August Rush," which touch on childhood memories, and are infused with emotion.

"The most important thing for me is to be real," she insists. "This is who I am. This is what I look like. This is how I feel. I'm not the super-model type. I don't wear a lot of make-up. I'm more relaxed and laid-back. I get to be myself, a 20-year-old girl. I feel confident in myself but like any girl I like to get dressed up sometimes. To me success means happiness. As long as I'm happy I'll consider myself successful."

With a debut album about to drop, Liana Conway is at the threshold, and she won't let anything get in her way. "I was taught by my mom to be very independent, to do my own thing and everything will work out," she says. "This life is not necessarily about finding that one person to be with. At the end of the day, it's up to me. I have a specific mission. But it's also about balance. You can't simply lose yourself in someone else. Experience has taught me that. But I did get a few songs out of it, too."

As one of her own songs puts it, there's "No Turning Back Now" for Liana.

"I don't think that far ahead. I have goals, but they're not specific, like having a #1 record or selling out stadiums. I thought about that more when I was 13. I want to be around music the rest of my life. It's what I want to do. It's such a powerful force, a form of expression for centuries which has had a huge impact on society. And it has helped so many people. Yes, I'm a dreamer. This is a great opportunity for me. And the coolest part is being around people who are so talented and passionate about what they do."

There's no question about it. Liana Conway is the real deal.

"I'm all in," she insists. "It's all or nothing. Every moment is such a gift, but I'm 200% ready for the next step." - Liana.