

"Sexy, Spiritual and Bluesy Songs Full of Metaphors and Sung with Grace and Passion"

*Rob Lincoln, cdreviewsonline.com*

Jennie Avila has performed solo and in various bands and duos for many years around the Philadelphia area. She has shared the stage with nationally known performers such as Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, Janis Ian and even Robin Williams. Avila is an exceptional performer with a unique vocal delivery. Always a writer, she began performing on guitar only after already performing for more than a decade exclusively as a percussionist/vocalist. She is known for her unusual percussion instruments, most notably the Japanese kokirikko, but she has become a fine acoustic guitarist as well.

In Dancing Naked In The Rain, her second solo recording, Avila explores her more bluesy influences and delivers some of her best folk and blues songs to date. Accompanied by some of the Philadelphia area's most accomplished musicians (ie Jay Ansill, Rolly Brown, Chip Mergott and Full Frontal Folk) she performs gentle intellectual folk songs and sensual, witty blues tunes with equal skill. Unlike her first CD, Child of My Child, which is highly recommended for its Latina influences, it's gorgeous intricate acoustic tunes, and its wonderful children's song *The Spider & The Butterfly*, this recording really focuses on the more bluesy side of this fascinating songwriter. As a result, the favorite songs include a number of blues tunes--but she has some great non-blues songs on this cd as well.

### *Our Favorite Songs*

1. *A Thousand Chances* - One of the best songs Jennie Avila has ever written. It is a song that deserves to be heard around the world for its message of peace and love. If it

wasn't inspired by the lead-up to the Iraq War, it certainly could have been.

2. *Too Good For You* - This is a show stopper in concert and doesn't disappoint on the CD. Concise, clever, funny, yet also angry. It is a great little tune that gets your adrenaline rushing as well as gives you a chuckle.
3. *Love Love The Chase* - I kept looking to see which great blues master wrote this classic sounding song, but it is an original. Bessie Smith could have sung it and sounded right at home. Some particularly nice guitar licks from Rolly Brown put the icing on the cake.
4. *Persephone* - Avila's interest in mythology is the basis for this song which is an elegantly beautiful contrast to some of the bluesier numbers. Her voice has never been more ethereal than on this cut.
5. *You Lie You Lose* - Tough blues sung from someone who sound like she knows about heartache.
6. *Oblivious Moon* - Sly little jazzy song with some great metaphorical language
7. *My Mother's Garden* - Sounds like a quiet sunny day in a garden, even when the vocals have no words. Folky, with an acoustic sixties flavor

Jennie Avila has consistently written strong songs and performed at a high calibre for years. She has a distinctive voice that is immediately recognizable. If you are unfamiliar with her music, and especially if you like your folk with a jazzy, bluesy, latina and/or percussive feel, we strongly suggest you go to [jennieavila.com](http://jennieavila.com) and discover a very special artist. (She is also a graphic artist and painted the unique cover).