

Astrid Young Bio 2002

Originally from Toronto, Canada, Astrid began playing music at the age of three, schooled at the Royal Conservatory of Music and classically trained over many years and is versed in several instruments. Live performances and recordings began as early as 1974 while playing Oboe and English Horn in many orchestral situations.

Rock music became a passion at the age of fourteen when Astrid picked up her first guitar, a 1966 Gibson SG Special, but the fascination with the genre, tying in with a love of film, and horror films in particular, began at a much earlier age when Astrid was exposed to much of the guitar rock of the sixties through her older sister: Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and later on Deep Purple and Black Sabbath were the influence to concentrate on guitar, and later bass guitar. Citing Ritchie Blackmore, Tony Iommi and David Gilmour as primary guitar influences, Astrid began playing around in Toronto bands in 1979, through 1985 when she moved to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles in the eighties was inundated with the glam rock and heavy metal revival, and the timing was such that soon after making the move, Astrid found herself singing lead for metal band Sacred Child, who went on to make two records which both charted in ten countries, (in the top ten for airplay in Holland and Belgium, France and Italy) including entering the USA east-coast based "Hard Report" at number sixteen, coming in just behind Motley Crue's "Girls Girls Girls". Following the breakup of Sacred Child, Astrid played and sang in a number of Los Angeles club bands, as well as recording extensively, leading up to making a record for Warner Brothers in 1993/94 (Brainflower, never released). Right around this time was when recording and touring with brother Neil began, starting with Harvest Moon and Unplugged, moving right into a world tour with Booker T and the MG's backing up Neil. Over the following years, many musical relationships were begun, and saw Astrid singing back up with, among others Gerry Goffin and Heart; played keyboards for bands like Graveyard Train and Berlin. A brief stint into film music followed, fueled by Astrid's love of film and her involvement with the screenwriting world.

A move back to homeland Toronto saw the forming of stoner rock power trio iST, with Toronto guitarist David Kiner (ex of Juno nominated Mal Havoc) and drummer Dan Cornelius (Sass Jordan, Rocket Science). Astrid formed this band as the second guitar player, but after a year of searching for the right bass player, decided it was best to tackle the job herself. This proved to be the benchmark decision for the band, which went on to conquer the Toronto rock scene at the forefront of the heavy rock revival. In the words of one club promoter: "iST sounds like everyone else is trying to sound!" In 1998 Astrid teamed up with

Toronto director Julian Grant and made a film based on one of her original screenplays. The film features the band, and is called "Haunted". The film is a dark and fictional portrait of a rock band (iST) whose singer is a serial killer. The short film has played in festivals all over the world and has so far won two awards. The first iST album is called "Pokalolo Paniolo" and features much of the music that is in the film. iST has toured briefly but successfully in California and throughout Canada. Plans for a second album is in the works, and to follow in the footsteps of the last CD, another film is "in the can".

Which brings us to the present ... recent years have seen Astrid through many tours and recordings with brother Neil and has brought her back to California, where she is professionally involved in the wine business: currently a Sommelier of some renown in the Napa Valley, and a candidate for Master of Wine. Separation from the iST band created a need for a performance outlet, and Astrid began playing solo acoustic shows around the Bay area of San Francisco. The shows have been such a great success and have garnered a loyal following, prompting Astrid to record an acoustic CD. Some of the songs she plays live are from the iST CD, but many are more personal, and reflect her love of the twelve string acoustic guitar sound and some interesting tuning configurations. The music itself showcases her passion and love of live performance. The album is appropriately titled "Matinee", after the title track, which speaks of the escape that can only be provided by a great film. The rest of the tracks compile somewhat of a concept, in that many of the songs have some reference to films.

Looking forward to the imminent release of "Matinee" and some European live dates to support it; perhaps an iST tour will be next . . .

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