



# Chiemi's Corner MUSIC REVIEWS & EVENTS



Jennifer Matthews's  
"Sunroom Sessions"  
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## Jennifer Matthews

"Sunroom Sessions" Release and at The Tir na nÓg Sept. 10

After tours of England, Southern California, and Alaska, Jennifer Matthews is honoring her Somerville fans as part of the "News Poetry and Music Series." Indeed, she is well-known and accomplished in both poetry and music.

Matthews just released a solo acoustic CD entitled the "Sunroom Sessions" which she will be playing some songs from at the Tir na Nóg. Just last week Neil Young's camp chose Jennifer's song, "1000 Miles," and you can find it on his website at Neilyoung.com. She won an award from the prestigious Billboard magazine for her last album "The Wheel." Her book of poetry "Fairytales and Misde-

meanors" was released a few years ago on Ibbetson Street Press and was nominated for a poetry award by the Cambridge Arts Council. Matthews has had a prolific career with six albums and international touring including Japan, Korea, Switzerland, U.S. Recently her poems were published in Nepal by Pen Himalaya and locally by the Wilderness Retreat writers group.

ganization. Also, her song "Holler Out" was just placed on a CD in China funded by Boston's own Shriner Institute raising money for treatment and rehabilitation for burn victims.

The "Sunroom Sessions" was recorded in a small studio in a wooded area in Norton owned by engineer Jerry Bates. It's inception began when Jennifer was going on a solo tour to England and needed something to sell off the stage that was what the audience was hearing, just voice and guitar. The radio station in Western Ma, 99.9 the River, has been featuring the "Sunroom Sessions" and are playing it in regular rotation.

Since Matthews moved to Boston in 1998, her solo career has brought her icon status. She is a rocker with a Suzanne Vega-like toned down side. Also, her lyrics, whether published in books or albums, ring with an unrelenting realism.

"The Sunroom Sessions" was released this past June (Thundamoon Records 2006), her self-produced solo follow-up to last year's "The Wheel." It was



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Matthews brings her own mix of funk and jazz to the stage. room Studio in Norton, Mass., "Beautiful Mud," the five-piece with Matthews on vocals, piano, baritone guitar, acoustic guitar and mandolin. Part of Matthews' style is defined by her signature baritone electric guitar, with which she creates her own special funk and jazz. She also tunes in on her blue Martin. Matthews studied music at the University of Colorado in Boulder and at Denver's School of Music. She began her career as a solo artist while in Colorado, performing in local venues there. This experience led to several awards from the Rocky Mountain Music Association. She then toured Japan, Korea and Hawaii for three months and relocated to New York.

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