

Jennifer Clarke Bio

Jen was born and raised on a farm in Delaplane, Virginia at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains.. She spent her childhood listening, playing, and singing music constantly. Elmer and Rose Abel who lived on a corner of the farm gave her her first guitar when she was seven or eight. It was a bass guitar and she played it so much she drove everyone crazy. Every day she could she would go up to the cabin where Rose and Elmer lived and play along with George Jones, Skeeter Davis or whatever country, Bluegrass or Gospel music was radiating from the place.

In sharp contrast her mother listened to nothing but classical and opera and grew up playing clarinet in a New York band. Her father was obsessed with vintage Jazz and listened to it nightly after dinner. For her twelfth birthday a family friend gave her a stack of Django Reinhardt records as a gift and the race was on to buy an acoustic guitar and play like him. All the while rock and roll found it's own lofty place in her practice. Jen never took lessons but played along to records for years. By the age of sixteen she had migrated north to Massachusetts and soaked up the local Cambridge folk scene. She played in clubs on amature nights when she could get away with it but often was kicked out when they discovered her true age.

In the early nineties she moved to Los Angeles and continued writing but it wasn't long before the east coast drew her back. Now residing on the island of Martha's Vineyard with husband actor/comedian Lenny Clarke and working as a commercial fishing captain she has completed a new record More Than I Have. It was recorded in part on the Vineyard and in Boston with producer Judd Fuller (Entrain, Rodney Atkins) and musicians Duke Levine (Mary Chapin Carpenter), Stu Kimball (Bob Dylan), Mike Levesque (Tribe) and Pete Koepf (Troubadours); and also in Nashville where Jen has been working for the past three years as a songwriter with Producer Fred Mollin (Kris Kristoferson, Jimmy Webb) and a host of A-list players. More Than I Have has created quite a buzz and is already playing on local radio stations. Her song "Mr. Pain" from the album has been put on hold by the FX original series Rescue Me with Denis Leary.