

## *Who is Jen Rathbun?*

Born in El Paso, TX, Jen's been singing since she was knee-high to tumbleweed. Her grandparents, who raised her, bought Jen a piano when she was 6 years old. She started piano lessons at age 7, and grew up playing for church services and school choir shows. In high school, she won first chair at a regional voice competition, and began voice lessons, paid for by a generous, but anonymous benefactor.

Fleeing the hot dusty deserts of El Paso for the mountains of Colorado, she earned a degree in vocal performance at The University of Denver. However, Jen suffered from performance anxiety and knew she'd have to make a living somehow. Since music was the only thing she knew, she decided to go to Colorado State University, where she earned a masters degree in music therapy.

An internship brought her to Houston, where she stayed on at a hospital that treats brain-injured patients. She used the rhythm in music to guide a patient's abnormal gait pattern into normal walking. For those who had trouble talking, Jen sang familiar songs with patients to help them produce words. Unfortunately, nobody knew about music therapy, and Jen always felt like a fish out of water.

Jen always dreamed of performing. With the help of her husband, and a little maturity, she began to sing at open mic's all around Houston. Amidst a sea of guitar-picking folkies, Jen was the lone keyboardist in the crowd, playing an eclectic range of tunes from humorous to girl angst music. She was a misfit again.

But this time Jen prevailed. The guitarists admired her talent and she was welcome at every open mic she attended. With increased confidence, Jen entered The National Singer/Songwriter Auditions in 2003. This time, the uniqueness of being a keyboardist set her apart from the other zillions of guitar players. She won the auditions.

The prize was a trip to Nashville to play at the famous Bluebird Café. Some well-known music industry professionals made it out to see her, and one well-known producer, Hall of Famer, Robert Metzgar, snatched her up on his label, Platinum Plus Universal.

With his guidance, Jen explored the realm of jazz cabaret and blossomed. Her new CD, "Coffee, Chocolate & Men," offers a salacious mix of humor and sexual innuendo.

Jen lives in Houston with her husband, three cats, a turtle, and a fish.