



Charlie Chan is the complete modern musician. She's landed this millenium somewhere left of the big musical playing field but dead centre in her own sonic universe.

She creates, records and produces her own music, makes her own interactives authors her own Web site, and has won broad critical acclaim for her prolific output - including numerous soundtracks and three solo albums.

#### On Record ...

Chan started playing piano at the age of three and at 15 was already composing for small ensembles. She plays six instruments fluently and was also one of the first women composers in Australia to embrace music technology. She's now finding new ways to blend both spheres, as witnessed on her solo CDs. They're like bookends or far poles in a diverse career. The first, *The Adventures of Charlie Chan*, is a series of technology-driven soundscapes while the second, *East & West*, is a collection of improvised solo piano pieces. Her current album *Wild Swans* is a logical progression from the first but also takes flavours from the second.

#### Performance ...

In her state-of-the-art digital studio, Chan explores both acoustic and technological avenues and interweaves them in a way that transcends hi tech manipulation and gets back to the source of good music: performance.

"What is really important is the energy you bring to music and I don't care what people say, technology can't fix that when it isn't there."

Chan performs live in various configurations - from solo grand piano, to solo with electric friends, to various group situations such as performing with Deep Forest or touring internationally with her ensemble; or playing with a few guests in Australian clubs and theatres.

She's an independent techno-junkie and multimedia artist and is currently developing a host of multimedia projects for the Internet and CD-ROM.

She has written numerous soundtracks for film, theatre, dance and television including award winning scores for *The Last Warriors*, *Australian Story*; the hugely successful play, *Gift of the Gorgon* for Sydney Theatre Company; opening music titled *The Elements* which premiered at the Adelaide Festival; and television documentaries that have screened through National Geographic and Discovery channels as well as national networks both in Australia and abroad.

Charlie composed the score for the film *Me Myself I*. This film was financed and produced by the French production company Gaumont (credits include *Diva*, *The Big Blue*, *The Fifth Element*, *The Professional* and the forthcoming *Joan of Arc*). It is distributed by Buena Vista International (UK/EC) and Sony Classics (USA). *Me Myself I* was written and directed by Oscar nominee Pip Karmel (Editing - Shine) and stars Rachel Griffiths (also an Oscar nominee for *Hillary and Jackie*).

#### Webs of Intrigue ...

She says hers isn't music to intellectualise about and yet she wants people to understand it. Hence the Web page and the CD-ROM where people can not only hear the music but read about how it was made and why. She's using the Internet to grow a broader audience both here and overseas. It's not uncommon for her site to receive 12,000 visitors a week. The site sold more than 28,000 CD's across the entire catalogue.



"Creating my own Web site is just an extension of my creativity, and so in this I'm able to be myself and not someone else's perception of who I am."



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