

SWALLOWED BY A CIRCUS HEART

Rebecca Loeb is a fresh-faced and breezy songwriter with the voice of a pop star. Her sound ranges from indie Americana to confessional ballads to cabaret-style waltzes — encompassing the quirky whimsy of Regina Spektor, the rootsiness of Patti Griffin and the dry wit of Randy Newman, who is an all-time favorite of the young musician. “I love the way he puts himself into his characters,” Loeb says, “and writes so authentically from so many different voices.”

The Austin, Texas-based musician impressed the judges on TV’s reality music competition *The Voice* with her performance of Nirvana’s “Come As You Are.” The TV show “didn’t really sound like my kind of thing,” she says, “but then again I happened to be home that weekend so I didn’t have a good excuse not to at least go to the audition.”

Loeb wrote the majority of 2012’s *Circus Heart* in her downtime on the show. The track “Swallowed by the Sea” directly references the experience. “When I went to the first *Voice* audition in Austin,” Loeb recalls, “I remember standing in front of the casting directors and describing my lifestyle to them; they were so shocked to hear that I make a living performing songs I write at gigs that I book, drive myself to and perform on my own. I was equally shocked that those professionals seemed unaware that there are thousands of people making a living this way! I went home and started to write a song for them.”

Rebecca Loeb performs with Ellis Paul 8 pm Saturday, May 4, at Cozmic; \$16.50 adv., \$18 door. — William Kennedy



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