

# VIVA COLOGNIA

## - Joanna Gypers debut album to be released in 2010

.Viva Polonia is the title of Steffen Möller's bestseller. As a student the German writer went to Krakau to learn Polish, and ended up staying there because of the complexity of the Polish language. An unusual story since Germans do not normally go to Poland to stay there. The other way around is much more common, we just don't notice it when Poles move to Germany. In this case it is worth noticing and worth listening to.

Joanna Gypser was just three years old when her family moved to Germany in 1980. Her father, a doctor, had a scholarship for Cologne. They had planned to just come for a year so they only brought along the bare necessities. But the formation of the Solidarity trade union, the subsequent strikes and finally the declaration of marshal law resulted in Joanna's family staying in Germany.

Joanna quickly grew fond of her new home, and although she didn't speak a word of German, it was easy for her to find new friends in Kindergarten. Besides discovering a new language and full supermarket shelves, Joanna also found something else in Germany: music. At age six she started with classic piano lessons. Anyone who expects the usual cliché of the east European prodigy being trimmed to become a second Chopin by ambitious parents is wrong. Even though Joanna twice participated successfully at the talent show "Jugend Musiziert". Joanna started writing songs, at first just for herself, then for plays. One of the plays even went on tour in Poland.

Maybe it was the multitude of new impressions, or perhaps the feeling that writing music was not sufficient for Joanna to express herself. Joanna decided not only to write, but also to sing. She took singing lessons, wrote lyrics and started working as a studio singer. However, she never gave up songwriting. She felt the increasing urge to publish here music so she started writing the songs for the debut album. And now here it is!

„Piece of Your Heart“ is the first single on her debut album that is settled somewhere between acoustic pop, ballads and singer-songwriter. The wide scope of her music comes from the diversity of her idols and the influence of artists such as Jason Mraz, Lucie Silvas, One Republic, Maria Mena as well as the Australian singer Delta Goodrem. Joanna cannot say how much direct influence these and other artists had on her, but she says: "There is a difference between music or songwriters you like and admire and those that influence you. Some influence always sticks to you, every artist orientates himself consciously or unconsciously according to others. In my case I think it is a conglomeration my own as well as many different influences.

That this is the case can be heard on Joanna's debut album that will be released in 2010. Joanna's cool bright voice changes between quiet emotional moments and po-

werful sections where the strength of this great singer's voice is evident. She easily moves back and forth between pop, singer-songwriter and classic influence. Her feeling for melody combined with her distinctive powerful yet soft voice make her debut album one of the very special releases of the year.