

GINA HORSWOOD

www.ginahorswood.com

PORCELAIN Resonant. Cracked. Unbroken.

Quietly compelling Aussie-Canadian singer-songwriter **GINA HORSWOOD** is a musical force to be reckoned with. Now based in Toronto, Horswood has travelled far and wide for her music, as a true modern troubadour. She's recorded in Australia, where her debut *Our Way*, penned with her sister Melanie, was released in 2006 and boasted two Top 10 country singles down under. Her video for "Ordinary Girl," from her sophomore album *Crazy Brilliant Mess*, reached the top 50 on Australia's Country Music Channel charts. In Nashville, she gained the attention of renowned songwriter and producer **Jim Reilley**, recording *The Nashville Sessions* EP. Now in Muskoka, she's recorded her third full length-album **Porcelain** with producer **Andre Wahl** (Luke Doucet, Hawksley Workman). In July 2015, Gina also won the first **Collingwood Live & Original Music Series** which led to continued support from local adult contemporary radio station **95.1 THE PEAK FM (CKCB FM)**.

With powerhouse vocals that sneak up on you, Horswood has really hit her stride on *Porcelain*, and the 12-track album marks a significant departure from her country/ballad roots. This new collection of original songs reveals an alabaster soul that's cracked but unbroken, a person who's vulnerable but defiant, a devout atheist seeking redemption without religion. This is evident on the slow but percolating "**Coffee & Gin**," where the minimal arrangement and cheeky, ironic gospel sound help to convey the story of a troubled and rebellious teen who works out her angst by cutting off God, and those who try to force their own views upon her. The spacious production and gospel backing vocals lead to a thrilling organ solo by Robbie Grunwald.

Throughout *Porcelain*, Horswood is a willfully unhurried artist, and lets each melody take its fullest breath. With deep emotional resonance, the songs come from a sonorous wellspring. Many give way to the cracks in Horswood's armour, fashioned from her troubled youth. Captivating guitar licks from **Tom Juhas** underlie soaring vocals in a classic yearning ballad, aptly named "**Trouble**," while loss and longing dominate the early Daniel Lanois-esque track "**Polka Dot Bows**" – an atmospheric meditation where long, slow notes run the span of a lifetime. The heart-wrenching "**How Many Lives**" contemporizes the '50s doo-wop tradition and recalls the Flamingos' version of "I Only Have Eyes for You."

Horswood has included a number of inspirational pieces that give expression to her hopeful, independent and determined side. The defiant "**Come Hell or High Water**" features electric slide guitar and has a widescreen cinematic feel, as if you can feel the desert in the song. "**Don't Let Life Take the Good Out of You**," a song written to cheer up Horswood's dad, is a bluesy, singalong with a mighty, gospel-choir finish. The Tom Waits-inspired "**Why Should I Wait**" masterfully utilizes backing vocals and vibraphone with an impressive vocal flourish at the end.

Also Waits-influenced is the album's first single "**Bad Fruit**," a dark, moody piece with vibraphone, clippety clopping woodblock and twangy guitar.

Finally, the title track reminds us that life requires us to be tough, but also vulnerable...just like "**Porcelain**." It's a propulsive country number but the gospel's never far away with this girl! A catchy, singalong chorus ... "Where is your back bone baby?" gets you going, fades to a lone tinkling piano, then rushes back in for a double-time, hallelujah chorus.



Track Listing:

1. Come Hell or High Water (4:41)
2. Coffee & Gin (4:07)
3. Bad Fruit (3:58)
4. Trouble (4:10)
5. Caged (3:20)
6. Faith (4:25)
7. Don't Let Life Take the Good Out of You (3:45)
8. Polka Dot Bows (6:24)
9. Grey Bird (3:52)
10. How Many Lives (3:20)
11. Why Should I Wait (3:53)
12. Porcelain (5:06)

To Listen/download: <https://goo.gl/g3z8ZH>

Password: Porcelain2015

"The lyrics to me are like a broken-hearted Kristofferson or an angry Patsy Cline."

~ **The Ottawa Citizen**

"Her voice changes the matter of the air it passes through, like coloured light."

~ **Sean Cotton, The Undesirables, Tree Ring Records**

Musicians on the Album:

Sly Juhas - Drums
Tom Juhas - Guitar
Robbie Grunwald - Keys
Rich Levesque - Bass
Dani Strong - Backing Vocals
Tamica Herod - Backing Vocals

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