

ANNETTE CONLON

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The influences of Johnny Cash, Emmylou Harris and Dolly Parton can be discerned in her solo debut, 2015's "Life, Death, and the Spaces Between," especially in the country-flavored melodies and lively instrumentation — accordion, banjo, cello, Dobro, guitars, mandolin, mellotron, pedal steel — arranged with guitarist/husband Doug Conlon and multi-instrumentalist/producer Ted Wulfers. The 10 songs explore Conlon's two-year journey through deadly illness, multiple surgeries and a major brain injury. Songs like "First Suicide," "Cedar Box" and "Faceless Angel" address challenging issues of loss, fear, faith and relationships — weighty matters, to be sure, yet she fashions silver linings from the darkest of clouds.

"I was often told I would never be 'as good as new' or as I was before I became ill," Conlon recalls. "I was frustrated with being defined by my illness, and decided instead of being 'as good as new' I would become 'better than before.' I wrote 'Live Like an Angel' about refusing to let crushing despair defeat you — about rising above and letting the world hear you sing."

Country Music People ranked "Life, Death, and the Spaces Between" third on a Best Albums of 2015 list, and dubbed Conlon "a major talent" who "created a moving, intimate, magical melodic country trip." AXS.com called it "a sincere compilation of emotionally born composition." "Life, Death, and the Spaces Between" landed on the Top 100 RadioFreeAmericana chart, and tracks are earning radio play in the U.S. and Europe.

Long active in LA's independent music community, Conlon is dedicated to supporting other independent women in music. Toward that end, she created the Internet radio program "NetteRadio," and has produced more than 50 artist showcases that have raised funds for numerous charitable causes. She also hosts a monthly songwriter night at LA's popular Muse on 8th coffeehouse, a relaxed setup that allows her to connect with other singer-songwriters and Americana artists across the City of Angels. She won the 2011 Songsalive! Songwriter of the Year Award, and a 2015 Hollywood Music Media Award nomination in Americana.

Still driven by the DIY ethic that shaped Eden Automatic's career, Conlon is currently working with three-time Grammy winner Alf Rodenas on her second album, a "folkier, sweeter, darker" effort that she promises "delves even deeper into my human heart." In September, the passionate animal rights advocate and vegan performs in Nashville during the annual Americana Music Association conference and then launches her Compassionette Tour, which winds through Alabama and North Carolina before landing at Chicago Veganmania's "compassionate culture" celebration. It's a fitting wrap for a tour — and artist — committed to "spreading awareness through music, fashion, food, and love."

More information about Annette Conlon, including tour dates, press clips, endorsements and links to social media accounts, can be found at annetteconlon.com.

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