

## Guitarist & Singer **Andrea Benz** releases Debut Album “Who I Am”

Andrea Benz is unlike any other artists. With captivating guitar skills, a beautiful clear country voice, and genius songwriting, Andrea’s fans call her a “triple threat.” Hailing from the beautiful country of Switzerland, the rising singer/songwriter’s roots are seated deeply in country music, her voice reminiscent of the 90ies country stars. Already known in musicians’ circles as a studio perfectionist, Andrea’s guitar craftsmanship can be heard and seen on countless country performances and recordings around the world. Whether it’s with Grammy winner Paul Overstreet in Germany, Country Music Hall of Fame member Charlie McCoy in Spain or with Lonestar Troubadour Dale Watson in Texas, Andrea has amassed millions of travel miles and performed for thousands of country music fans around the world. She won several awards, such as the Swiss Country Music Award in 2016 or the Rising Star Award at the Texas International Country Music Award in 2018. Her playing style is a unique blend of 90ies country chicken picking style and the earlier jazzy western swing style.

Born and raised out in the country in Switzerland, she started playing guitar at the age of 8 and got hooked to the instrument quickly, playing for hours daily. She grew up listening to country music and has always been fascinated by the traditional and authentic country sound. With two college degrees in her pocket, one of them being a BA of Arts in Jazz & Popular Music, Andrea soon started touring all over Europe, always striving for more. She got the chance to sub for the guitarist of the legendary EU Band several times, a band of the best European country musicians that backs up the American Country Stars on their European tours. Playing big shows on a professional level like that, with the best musicians, is what made her dream to establish herself in the American Country Music scene grow.

With the 2019 move to Nashville she laid the groundwork for her professional career in the United States and despite all the challenges that come with moving to another continent, she soon started touring all over the North America with the all-female group Farewell Angelina as well as with Louisiana born singer/songwriter Karen Waldrup. She has opened shows for Darryl Worley, Buddy Jewell, Chris Janson, Craig Morgan, Paul Overstreet and Joe Nichols, among many others.

The move to Nashville also pushed Andrea to hone in on her songwriting and performing skills. “I’ve always wanted to be a professional musician, but never saw myself being a solo artist. Nashville pushed me to explore that side of me,” says Andrea, “and I love it.” She has managed to establish her own niche in country music. Being on the road backing up other singers, she began reflecting about herself as an artist, collecting ideas, thoughts, and in fact started writing many of the songs from her album on the road.

The resulting collection of songs is personal, and it perfectly conveys who she is as an artist, not only musically but also paints her own story - An intimate snapshot of the road to Music City



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and her growth as an artist under Nashville’s neon lights. Culled from experiences gathered along her journey to Nashville; Andrea’s music is authentic. “My heart has been and always will be firmly planted in country music”, muses the Nashville based artist. It’s a bold statement and surprisingly refreshing in a time where country music seems to be struggling with its identity. With her debut album, Andrea proves that it’s possible to go with time without losing the roots of country music. The collection stands out with its pure sound, void of synths or electronic elements, dominated by the traditional music instruments and harmonies of classic country. “Who I Am” is the title of her debut album which was released on September 16. It features 13 tracks, mainly originals and a few collaborations with well-known guest artists; One song is written by Country Music Hall of Fame Member Charlie McCoy and features him on harmonica. Another highlight of the album is a duet with Buddy Jewell, a cover version of the Patty Loveless hit “You Don’t Even Know Who I Am”. The original song “Stand For My Country”, which has been released as a single, is a catchy testimony to her love for Country Music and already got a lot of attention on social media. The album has been recorded with session musicians at the renowned Beard Music Group in Nashville, while Andrea recorded several electric guitar parts herself. On top of that, she arranged all the songs herself, prior to co-producing them with Eli Beard and William Wallace. “Who I Am” is not just another cookie-cutter country-pop record, it’s an authentic country album in traditional style.

“It’s taken me a while to get to where I am, but I just had to connect all the dots”, says the rising country artist. Besides touring, playing solo shows and writer’s rounds, Andrea is also a regular artist at the world-famous Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge, Superstar Alan Jackson’s “AJ’s Good Time Bar” and the legendary “The Stage” on Broadway in Nashville. Andrea’s undeniable charm and her clear, bright voice always leave you wanting more.

Nashville, September 2022

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A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Benz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Andrea" and "Benz" being significantly larger and more prominent.