



On ***Trust the Waves Will Hold You***, award-winning rock violinist, singer and songwriter Susan Voelz delivers six enchanting songs that wash through the listener's consciousness with surges of delight.

Known best as what the *Austin American Statesman* signals as “the soul of the sound” of Poi Dog Pondering, she has also played with such luminaries as John Mellencamp, Alejandro Escovedo and numerous others alongside composing and recording music for television and theatre and album projects.

The disc is drawn from unreleased tracks Voelz recorded with Poi Dog in the 2000's and polished up during the recent pandemic lockdown, all six of them luscious soundscapes graced by her “masterful and woozy violin” (*LA Weekly*) and warm singing.

“Oyster” is a full-throttle cruise across a sea of melodic splashes that brims with desire (“All I want is the oyster or everything”).

On “If I were a Boy, I'd be You” a couple trades genders to celebrate the fullness of their love in a prancing *pas de deux*, while “Step off the Roof” crackles with the challenge of a difficult decision.

She wraps it up with a delectably lilting take on the Beatles chestnut “With a Little Help from my Friends.”

To adapt a line Voelz sings, waltz with her to this rhapsody. It's an offer with abundant rewards.

## SUSAN VOELZ BIO

“Sounding like Nico and John Cale fused into one (somewhat sweeter) being” (*Musician Magazine*), Susan Voelz (pronounced Velz) has pioneered the violin-in-rock music as an original member of Poi Dog Pondering, punk poet Alejandro Escovedo, British rock legend Ronnie Lane, and John Mellencamp.

“One minute her violin sounds like the sweet voice of angels, and the next minute it is a twisted cacophony inspired by demons” (Deadboy blog), or as an WXRT radio host described it, “a bat with butterfly wings.”

As a solo artist, she creates “powerfully atmospheric music” (*Trouser Press*), playing a 5-string violin (her grandfather’s) through guitar effects, inspired by music as varied as Madame Butterfly, the Velvet Underground, disco strings, and big band ballads.

Her violin and string arrangements can be heard on many recordings including James McCartney, Broken Social Scene, Mono from Japan, and Federico Aubele among others. She has composed and recorded music for TV and film, including Peabody Award winning *Frontline*, *The Lost Children of Rockdale County*, its follow up *Merchants of Cool*, and Jonathan Demme’s *Jimmy Carter: Man from the Plains*.

**Published Author:** *The Musicians Guide to the Road—A Survival Handbook & All Access Backstage Pass to Touring* (Billboard Books/Random House). Timothy White, former editor of *Billboard Magazine*, called it “A remedy for the road.”

<https://www.amazon.com/Musicians-Guide-Road-All-Access-Backstage/dp/0823077764>

Originally from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, she lived for many years in Austin, Texas and now resides in Chicago.

### VIDEO 1

From *Beautiful Life: Songs of Prince Re-Imagined* “I Would Die 4 U”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTBUq63F5f4>

### VIDEO 2

SMV with Alejandro Escovedo record release at Waterloo Records Austin, TX  
“Chelsea Hotel” live

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVEt4r66m3Y>

### VIDEO 3

From *Summer Crashing*  
“Taka Look Around”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiZy1u0WLxY>





## PREVIOUS RELEASES



### 13 RIBS

Released by Voodoo Records/Dixie Frog, Paris, France, and Pravda Records, Chicago

Between sensual Oriental pleasure and childlike nursery rhyme, this first solo album from Susan Voelz turns in upon itself like a kaleidoscope. . . . like two people waltzing, sad and exuberant, has the appeal of violets and a rendez-vous in an English garden.”

—Christian Larredie, *Les Inrockuptibles* (French Review)

## PAST PERFORMANCES

Carnegie Hall, Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, Red Rocks, Roskilde, Barbicon, Continental Club, Austin City Limits, Saturday Night Live, Tonight Show, across Canada, the U.S., Japan and Europe.

SMV and Poi dog Pondering Pritzker Pavillion, Chicago

## SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Website: <http://susanvoelz.com/>
2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/susan.voelz>
- 3a. You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SusanVoelz>
- 3b. You Tube 2: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjod5Qz0DjuZ9xgkVcLd2Sw>
4. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/susanvoelz>

## ALBUM REVIEWS

“The album is an intriguing, musically cohesive 13-song cycle. . . . ‘The Bed Song’ benefits from a lovely arrangement and a tender intimacy. . . . ‘Map of You’ . . . becomes softly sensual.” —Jim Bessman, *Rolling Stone*, ★★★ [13 Ribs]

“Find this record, buy it, treasure it, show it off to your friends. . . . Voelz has considerable writing skills and an engaging voice that ranges convincingly from world-weary to fresh, sometimes in the same song.” —Eric Selbin, *Utne Reader*, [13 Ribs]

“The low-key but powerfully atmospheric music orbits closely around a nucleus of Voelz’s breezy voice and mournful violin. . . . with occasional solar flares illuminating the twilight. Mighty fine.” —*Trouser Press Guide to '90s Rock*, [Summer Crashing]

“Sounding something like Nico and John Cale fused into one (somewhat sweeter) being. . . .” —Rob Patterson, *Musician Magazine* feature, [13 Ribs]

## LIVE REVIEWS

“Voelz would take over with melodic fury, loose strings on her bow flopping around angrily, with the symphonic equivalent of a wicked electric guitar solo.” —*Milwaukee Journal*

“One minute her violin sounds like the sweet voice of angels, and the next minute it is a twisted cacophony inspired by demons.” —Deadboy blog: the Birchmere, Alexandria, Virginia 2008

“Voelz’s violin was as heartwarming as a long-awaited kiss.” —*Milwaukee Journal*

## CONTACT

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### SUMMER CRASHING

Released by Voodoo Records/Dixie Frog, Paris, France, and Pravda Records, Chicago

“An Aural Crush of dreamy melodies awash in seductive strings and droning guitars. A mesmerizing trip.”

—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*



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