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## Jann Arden: A Work in Progress



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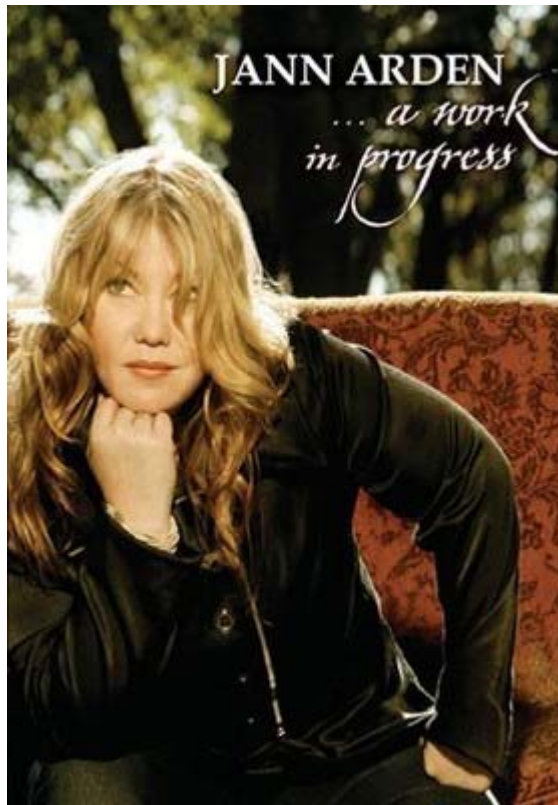
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Canadian singer-songwriter [Jann Arden](#) has sold more than two million records, but I confess that until I plunked this DVD down in my player, I don't believe I'd heard of her. **I say I don't believe that I had because the name sounds vaguely familiar, and the face seems recognizable as well, as Arden herself self-effacingly jokes in talking about living life seemingly on the perpetual precipice of something bigger.** Set against a backdrop of her music, *Jann Arden: A Work in Progress* is apparently part of a north-of-the-border arts-biography series, and it delivers a charming, revelatory portrait of a pop singer who steadfastly refuses to be stereotyped in an industry that thrives on image and radio-ready singles.

Running 50 minutes and anchored by a Dolby digital 5.1 surround sound mix, *A Work in Progress* mixes together interview footage with performance material, to solid effect. First things first: a complete track listing consists of "I Would Die For You," "Good Mother," "Ode to a Friend," "Wonderdrug," "The Sound Of," "Time for Mercy," "Hangin' by a Thread," "Holy Moses," "In Your Keeping," "I Just Don't Love You Anymore," "Could I Be Your Girl," "Insensitive," "Wishing That," "Another Human Being," "Piece of It All," "Sleepless" and "Will You Remember Me."

**It's Arden's disarming candor and skill with a quip, however, that makes this title such breezy fun.** Whether talking about her weight ("I got a boob caught in the blender and thought it was heartburn...") and love of cooking, her dating and romantic history, the occasional acting stint (she's done a couple tours of *The Vagina Monologues*) or her musical inspirations, **Arden comes off as refreshingly at**

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**ease with who she is, and that in turn translates to the appeal of her music**, which is of the light and evocative singer-songwriter mode, but with much more thoughtful lyrics. (Think along the lines of a female Luka Bloom, for point of reference.) There are unfortunately no additional supplemental extras herein, but this is overall a well-produced disc, and certainly worthy of your time if interested in getting to know Arden and her work. [For more information, visit her eponymous web site.](#) **B (Concert) C+ (Disc)**

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