

Nora Jean Bruso was born the seventh of 16 children raised working in the cotton fields on a plantation during the week and singing the blues (a lot of Howlin' Wolf) at her grandmother's Juke House on the weekends. Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry named Bruso one of the 10 great women in Chicago Blues, and wrote, "There is talk of Nora Jean as the next Queen of the Blues." She began her career by singing with Scottie and the Oasis and then with Jimmy Dawkins and his band. Her recording career began with a simple single, "Untrue Lover," and it launched her successful streak of songwriting through BMI. With fame that spans the oceans, Bruso has delivered show-stopping performances at festivals all over the world. Her first CD, *Nora Jean Bruso Sings the Blues*, is a tribute to all the great blues artists that came before her, and her second CD, *Going Back to Mississippi*, contains her original songs. *Nora Jean Bruso Sings the Blues* ended up on Living Blues radio charts for many months and made its way to the top of XM Radio's play lists. At the end of 2003, it made lists of the top blues CDs of the year all across the country, including the top 10 list in



*Nora Jean Bruso*

Chicago. If you don't get enough of her at 4:20 on Friday by the Minnesota State Lottery Stage, you can follow her many fans to Powerhouse Bar in Proctor that night for her encore.