

A handwritten signature of the name 'Ferron' in a cursive, black ink style. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

## *Turning Into Beautiful*

*Hello my friends,  
I feel so happy to be back,  
I feel so clear and on the track...  
Took a few planes,  
Took a few turns to who knows where,  
Got to scale a few walls to learn I care.  
Now I know I care...  
(from *More than That*)*

Ferron's new release, *Turning Into Beautiful*, is a sort of homecoming for a musician who has been long on the road.

In 2004, Canadian singer songwriter, Ferron, and band members from *Driver*, *Testimony*, and *Shadows on a Dime* started recording *Turning Into Beautiful*. "On borrowed money, in a shed, we got the songs together and then remotely recorded the band in an old farmhouse on Saturna Island," Ferron says. "We filled the house with 30+ years of music, learning the sound we wanted to hear. I felt like I was finally truly home in my body, my mind and my direction."

Ferron started writing songs when she was ten. In a turbulent childhood, music was something to hold onto. "I never saved songs after some kids at school found them and teased me about it. That's when I learned to write backwards," she remembers, laughing.

For someone with twelve CDs released and a dedicated international fan base, writing backwards is a thing of the past. But it's been a long journey, both in terms of negotiating the music industry and in finding her own voice.

At the age of 15, with the money she saved from ironing shirts, picking strawberries and working at a fish cannery, Ferron left home to begin a life of independence. She bought her first guitar with money earned from cutting grass for \$1.00/hour and in 1975 did her first show for a women's press in Vancouver. "I was so scared I couldn't stand. I had to sit down to sing."

By 1978 with the help of friends, she had recorded two LPs and started playing venues in Canada and the U.S. At the time, Ferron was working a couple of jobs by day, and playing nights. She met Gayle Scott, an American filmmaker living in Vancouver, who became her manager and together they brought out *Testimony*, *Shadows on a Dime*, and *Phantom Center*.

Soon she was playing sold-out shows across the States. "I flew in a lot of planes, drove a lot of cars, saw a lot of motels and ate a lot of backstage food," she recounts. "Life was grand except for one thing...how does one breathe in and breathe out at the same time?"

In the late 80s, Ferron took a break from touring to go back and take stock of her life. During this period of renewal, Ferron moved to the U.S. and finished *Phantom Center*, an album that explores the balance between love and fear, power and empowerment.

Over the next few years, Ferron released *Not a Still Life*, *Resting with the Question* and *Driver*. She toured with the Indigo Girls and was signed by Warner Brothers Records. Warner Brothers reissued *Driver* and *Phantom Center*, and sent Ferron on tour in the U.S. with her band, but eventually the deal disintegrated.

"I went to live with friends who had a recording/networking institute in Bodega, CA," Ferron says. "We had a lot of fun. Some younger gals were over for dinner and hadn't heard of Dusty Springfield or Janis Ian, or anybody from our past." This realization culminated in the making of *InsideOut*, a CD of cover tunes that influenced Ferron.

During this time, Ferron started teaching writing workshops, helping women find their own voices. "I was slowly getting over the financial hurt of the Warner Brothers deal but several more years would go by while I struggled with direction of purpose. Watching women tremble as they learn to express their own brand of beauty reminded me that it is not so much a business, this business of music, as an expression of love and ultimate redemption that can be found by speaking our truth."

In early 2004, Ferron approached her producer and suggested another cover CD of women's songs she loved. But the producer said, "Why not make a Ferron CD?"

"I told him I didn't have it in me and he said he thought I did. And that's how *Turning Into Beautiful* began," Ferron says.

"Music is like a spiritual quest, it's like looking for connection. It's like we have our right work to do, and you find out our right work is only to be spiritually connected," Ferron says. "In simple terms, I remember I felt that I was born bad and my job was to become initially good. But it was more about becoming true to myself. Hearing my own voice. Once you can feel that voice, that really true voice, you never come back."

*Turning Into Beautiful* is yet another collection of songs that expose the depth and beauty of an artist constantly in a process of spiritual renewal and rebirth. What's next? Ferron is a girl on the road again, touring Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S.

[www.ferrononline.com](http://www.ferrononline.com)

For further information please contact: Lori Peters at Mad Mission, 413.268.3398 or  
[lori@madmissionmusic.com](mailto:lori@madmissionmusic.com)

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