

Pegasus News

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Review: Jewel streams live, private concert for fans in Dallas (June 7)

by Jessica Harp

Our music critic walked in not loving Jewel. She walked out a fan.



Here's Jewel when she announced the live, private concert.

DALLAS — Over the past 15 years, singer/songwriter and guitarist Jewel has been hard at work creating beautiful, thoughtful, and almost unabashedly truthful music. Today marks the release of her newest musical offering *Sweet and Wild*, which is her ninth album to date.

Unlike her early work, which produced some of her most well known hits like “Who Will Save Your Soul” and “Foolish Games,” this record is full of songs that resemble the country side of the music spectrum – something that a few aging recording artists like Bon Jovi have been attempting to do for a few years now.

Monday night, Jewel along with Velocity Broadcasting streamed a live, private concert in San Diego for the release of *Sweet and Wild* to fans all over the world from Australia to Canada. Dallas was part of the unique event.

Although the concept was entertaining because it felt like we were right there with her in the studio, it also felt like watching MTV’s *Unplugged* or VH1’s *Storytellers*, which would have been more cozy watching from home. However, her performance, plus the free/signed copy of *Sweet and Wild*, were well worth going to the 48th story of the Dallas Tower Club and gazing at the breathtaking Dallas skyline.



Plus, attending an excessively loud and crowded concert would have taken away from Jewel's acoustic performance. Her music is the kind that should be experienced in small and intimate setting. Being able to stream her performance live to her fans around the world was the best way to show off her extraordinary talent.

The audience participation also made the event one of a kind. Each member of the audience – all over the world – were given little devices to vote on things like which song Jewel would play second, which song she would close with, and even what outfit she should wear to perform. The most engaging part of the audience participation, however, was a 10-question trivia game about the singer. The prize was a coveted iPad signed by Jewel.

Yes, some of Jewel's new material can be a little light and fluffy, but she more than makes up for it in her performance. Her vocal talent is immense – just take a listen when she yodels – and her lyrics go straight to the core. Some performers need a big band backing them up to feel comfortable on stage or to show off their talent, but to be able to strip each song down acoustically and just stand onstage alone proves a far more worthy talent to admire.

In between most songs, Jewel explained how each track came to fruition. She got off on tangents with long winded explanations – she talks like she thinks, very randomly – but she knows how to tell a good story, which translates to her songwriting. It also helps that she is rather funny and adorable. If that were not the case, it would have been more difficult to stay focused during her verbose commentary.

Jewel's version of country music is worth taking a listen to. It's not over produced, no achy breaky hearts; it's sincere, introspective, and prolific – qualities that are often missing in radio-worthy tunes.