

## **Q & A with J.J.**

*November 03*

### **Q: What is piano pop?**

A: *Piano pop* is upbeat contemporary piano filled with the hooks and melodies of pop music. It balances between the rhythm of jazz and the introspection of new age. Pop music doesn't take itself too seriously, but at the same time it can bring out stark emotions and represent real feelings. It includes many formats; pop can mean the latest reggae tune, a big band classic, or fast and furious rock. It has hooks; it takes a melody and explores where you can go with it. So piano pop never limits Jared to any particular genre.

### **Q: What makes Jared's music stand out?**

A: Jared distinguishes himself by his technique of drumming on the piano. His writing style also incorporates elements of rock and jazz to create a contemporary sound, making his songs twist and turn when you least expect it.

### **Q: During concerts you drum *on* the piano?**

A: Yes, it's a technique he developed several years ago while writing *Flooded*. The introduction needed a beat, so while playing with his right hand he hit his left hand on top of the piano like it was a Conga drum. Ever since then, he has been adding more percussion wherever it fits, always while keeping on piano with the other hand.

### **Q: What has been the highlight of Jared's career so far?**

A: Jared had the unique opportunity to perform in conjunction with the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games. He was invited to perform as part of the Governor's Opening Ceremony Reception adjacent to Olympic Stadium. The once-in-a-lifetime experience prompted him to write *Mountain Dreams*, an ode to the spirit of the Games.

### **Q: What is the goal of your music?**

A: Jared's mission is to uplift the lives of listeners and provide an alternative to the demoralizing noise rising around us. If it ever stops being fun, he won't do it.