

SRO Artists, Inc.

<http://www.sroartists.com> | gigs@sroartists.com

PHONE: (608) 664.8160

FAX: (608) 664.8161

ARTIST BIO: FERRON

(revised April-2017) p. 1 of 1

Ferron is a Canadian-born singer-songwriter and poet. In addition to gaining fame as one of Canada's most respected songwriters, Ferron first became one of the most influential lyrical songwriters of the women's music circuit, and an important influence on later musicians including Ani Di Franco, Mary Gauthier and the Indigo Girls. From the mid-80's on, her songwriting talents have been recognized and appreciated by music critics and broader audiences, with comparisons being made to the writing talents of Van Morrison, Bob Dylan, and Leonard Cohen.

All Music Guide remarks, "*in listening to Ferron's music, audiences are allowed to acknowledge the passage of time, people, memories, and hopes through her poetic metaphors. Her familiar vernacular, direct statements, enlightened associations, warm and husky voice, and engaging stage presence have permitted identification with her experiences and her process, her struggles and her wisdom, her universal anguish and strength.*" Born on June 1, 1952, Ferron grew up in a semi-rural suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia, the eldest of seven children in a working-class family. After leaving home at 15, she scrambled financially, supporting herself by driving a cab, waitressing, shoveling gravel, and packing five-pound bags of coffee in a factory.

From her basement, she recorded and distributed *Ferron* (1977) and *Ferron Backed Up* (1978). Since both albums are now out of print collector's items, Ferron decided to re-release much of their material on subsequent albums. In 1978, Ferron was "discovered" by Gayle Scott, who became Ferron's manager and business partner. Ferron and Scott collaborated on Ferron's next two studio albums: *Testimony* (Lucy Records, 1980) and *Shadows on a Dime* (Lucy Records, 1984), which received a four-star rating from Rolling Stone magazine.

She went on to release six more albums – *Phantom Center*; *Resting with the Question*; *Driver*; *Not a Still Life*; *Still Riot*; *Impressionistic* – before *Turning into Beautiful*, her next album of original material, in 2005 on her own label. That was followed by, *Girl on a Road* (a documentary with live performances), then *Boulder*, a collection of re-recordings produced by Bitch on Short Story Records, in 2008. *Boulder* includes guest appearances by Ani DiFranco, Indigo Girls, JD Samson (Le Tigre), Sam Parton (Be Good Tanyas), Tina G (Goddes) and Julie Wolf. The newest Ferron CD, *Lighten-ing*, was released in 2013, also produced by Bitch, with the film *Thunder* (by Bitch and Billie Jo Cavallaro) packaged as a two-disc set.

Ferron took a break from touring while she worked at a social service agency as a support counselor with people trying to get off the street. With arthritis affecting her hands and her ability to play the guitar, Ferron began performing with support musicians for special events only including Olivia Cruises, the 40th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, and the Ohio Lesbian Festival. In 2017, Ferron and her song, Ain't Life a Brook, were featured on an episode of Tig Notaro's TV show – One Mississippi.

After an overwhelmingly successfully sold out show with her All Star Band at the Freight & Salvage in Berkeley (Feb. 2017), Ferron decided that she would enjoy continuing to perform live in a Band format. With a new agency in place and a new album in the works, it's Ferron's time – she's back!

Ferron also teaches master classes in writing. For Ferron, "artistic expression is not only essential, it's revolutionary." "Art is really the expression of the soul," Ferron says. "I'm asking women to remember that if we remember our soul, we keep our soul, and we can do it through artistic connections. Art is connected to the soul, and the soul is connected to the Whole, and the Whole is connected to humility, so if you want to take control of a person's soul, don't let them have art. To me it's a revolutionary act to continue keeping your artist soul alive."