

# Pieta Brown

The daughter of two preacher's kids, **Pieta Brown's** early upbringing in Iowa was in a rural outpost with no furnace, running water, or TV. There, she was exposed to traditional and rural folk music through her father, Greg Brown, the now beloved Midwestern folk singer. Later, while living with her mother in Birmingham, Alabama during her formative years, **Pieta** drew on and expanded these influences and began writing poems and composing instrumental songs on piano. By the time she left home at 18 she had lived in at least 19 different houses and apartments between Iowa and Alabama. Emerging from a disjointed and distinctly 'bohemian' upbringing, **Pieta** began performing live and making independent recordings soon after teaching herself how to play guitar. "I grew up around a lot of musicians and artists living on the fringe, and have always felt most at home among them," **Pieta** says.

Hailed as a "*self-styled poetess, folk goddess and country waif*" by the BBC, **Pieta Brown** first came to international prominence with the release of her self-titled debut in 2002. Over the course of the ensuing decade-and-a-half, she's gone on to tour the US, Australia, and Europe extensively and release another seven critically lauded records, prompting NPR to applaud her "*moody, ethereal*" songwriting, and the New York Times to praise her "*sweet, smoky voice.*"

Perhaps even more importantly for an artist as fiercely independent as **Brown**, her work continues to garner praise and support from a wide array of peers and mentors, including legendary producer Don Was, filmmaker Wim Wenders, and Bon Iver mastermind Justin Vernon, who called **Brown's** 2014 album Paradise Outlaw his "*favorite recording made at our studio.*" In addition to the mountain of acclaim, **Brown's** music has also earned her co-writes with the likes of Iris Dement, Amos Lee, and Calexico; tour dates with an astonishing array of artists, including John Prine, Brandi Carlile, Emmylou Harris, JJ Cale, Neko Case, Richard Thompson, Ani DiFranco, and Mavis Staples; and festival slots everywhere from Bonnaroo to Mountain Jam. And in the last few years **Pieta's** songs and music have been heard in various TV Shows and indie films including Everything Will Be Fine (Wim Wenders).

Shortly after the release of her lush, experimental album Freeway on Righteous Babe Records, (fall 2019 featured by Stereogum and Billboard), **Brown** was invited into the 37d03d collaborative residency as part of Eaux Claires Hiver where she collaborated with artists such as Justin Vernon, Aaron Dessner, S. Carey, Gail Ann Dorsey, and many others. From this collaborative residency, her newest EP, We Are Not Machines, featuring Ani DiFranco, S. Carey, and many others (released on the 37d03d label 2020) was born.

Following the We Are Not Machines EP, **Pieta** has since released the pop-infused Follow You single (Righteous Babe 2020, co-produced with S. Carey), and is a featured guest on The Colorist Orchestra & Howe Gelb's upcoming release Not On The Map due October 2021 on Dangerbird Records.

Continually revealing new layers as both a songwriter and performer, **Pieta** is being recognized as one of modern Americana's true gems, with much attention being paid not only to her distinct sound and style, but also the power of her singing and songwriting. With new musical experiments and collaborations in motion, **Pieta's** music and artistry continue to expand and rise.

<https://www.pietabrown.com/home>