

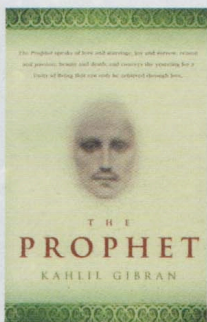
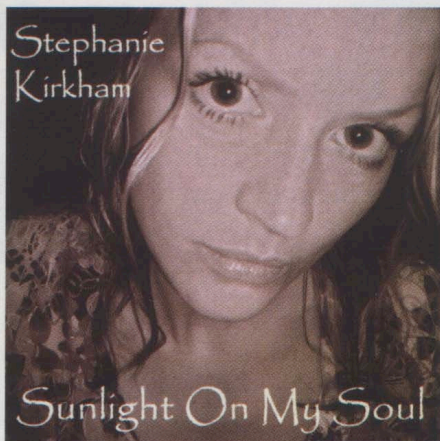
Stephanie Kirkham

Stephanie Kirkham is an up and coming singer/songwriter from Preston in Lancashire. Her debut album, *That Girl*, was released in 2003 on Hut recordings and received great reviews.

Although the artist suffered a minor setback only six months down the line when the record company that first signed her was closed, Stephanie had already caught the imagination of the public and her loyal fans have been eagerly awaiting her next musical move.

Now she is back with her second album, *Sunlight On My Soul*, which is released on her own label SLK music. A special collection of reflective songs with insightful lyrics, the album is out on 30th January.

We asked the thoughtful musician to tell us what inspires her in both her life and her song writing. The answer lies with revered Lebanese-American author Kahlil Gibran, and in particular his book 'The Prophet'.



“It’s important for me to spend time alone to think and write my songs and paint”

When I came across *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran I couldn’t put it down and wanted everyone to have a copy. It’s my favorite book and I find it so inspiring.

The author talks about work being love made visible and how to work with love is like weaving a cloth with threads from your heart for your loved one to wear. I think that all jobs are important and, all the cogs need to be in the right place for the clock to work, but when you love the work you’re doing time flies and you feel good from the beginning to the end of the day.

It’s important for me to spend time alone to think and write my songs and paint, but relationships are important and we need to

live and work together well. Gibran says that even the strings of a lute are alone even though they quiver with the same music and that the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s shadow.

From beginning to end this book is filled with words of wisdom and I will never tire of it. There is magic in creating something, whether it is a meal, a song, a bouquet of flowers, even a thought and the magical ingredient is love.

The Prophet
by Kahlil Gibran
Published by Arrow, £5.99
Available nationwide at Waterstones
www.waterstones.co.uk