

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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PAGE 6

### New Age Pianist Ola Gjeilo Romanticizes What Roxbury Park Might Be Like

By Christina Becos

We all pass Roxbury Park during our daily routines. But few of us ever stop to examine its beauty. Fortunately, Norwegian New Age pianist Ola Gjeilo romanticizes what so many of us miss in his serene song *Roxbury Park*.

Inspired by the lure of cities such as Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, Gjeilo shapes his music around the places, nature, and people he loves. Primarily a soundtrack musician in the past, Gjeilo reveals his true artistic talent in his first solo album *Stone Rose*.

Gjeilo has been involved in the music scene for approximately eight years. *Stone Rose* is his first direct involvement with the recording industry. As a graduate of Julliard, he composed classical music before discovering his true passion.

"I would say that my music fits within a broad understanding of the New Age genre, with elements of classical and jazz," Gjeilo said.

"Many people say it sounds like 'film music,' and

I'm always very happy to hear that, although it's difficult to describe exactly what that means in musical terms."

Gjeilo was born in Norway and moved to the United States in 2001 to attend Julliard. He lived on Spalding and Olympic from 2006 to 2007 while studying film and music at USC and began to explore the surrounding areas.

Since Los Angeles is not known to be much of a walking city, Gjeilo spent his leisure time running in the neighboring Roxbury Park, with his girlfriend or alone, sitting and gathering inspira-



Ola Gjeilo

tion for his music. From his experiences, the artist was able to produce the piano piece *Roxbury Park*.

"[The piece] is an expression of my love for and gratitude I felt for this urban sanctuary," Gjeilo said. "It was kind of an oasis for me." Despite having lived and studied around the world, Gjeilo prefers living in Beverly Hills to the other places he has lived.

"[Beverly Hills] is a really beautiful, well-kept city with many beautiful houses and streets," Gjeilo said. "I want to stay in the United States for the rest of my life; it's a very inspiring place to be an artist."

From an early age, Gjeilo was con-

vinced that music was his calling. He initially began his study of music at London's Royal College of Music and progressed to more professional fields.

"I just started playing the piano when I was very small," Gjeilo said. "I never really considered anything else."

He is extremely proud of *Stone Rose* and describes its composition process with fondness. Gjeilo wrote many of the tracks on the album at his home in Beverly Hills, including *Michelle*, which he dedicated to his girlfriend, *Stone Rose*, a lounge in the Sofitel Hotel on Beverly Boulevard; and *Sidewalks*, the roads winding around Santa Monica.

His CD is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), *iTunes*, and many other online stores in addition to Barnes and Nobles and Borders.

Gjeilo hopes to continue his status as an influential member of the musical community.

*Christina Becos is a senior at Beverly High.*