



# The Comanche Nation News



Yellowfish



Moway



Horseback



Wildhorse



Ten Bears



Big-Looking-Glass



Otter Belt



Whitewolf



Eschitl



Parker

VOLUME 10 EDITION 3

Lawton, OK

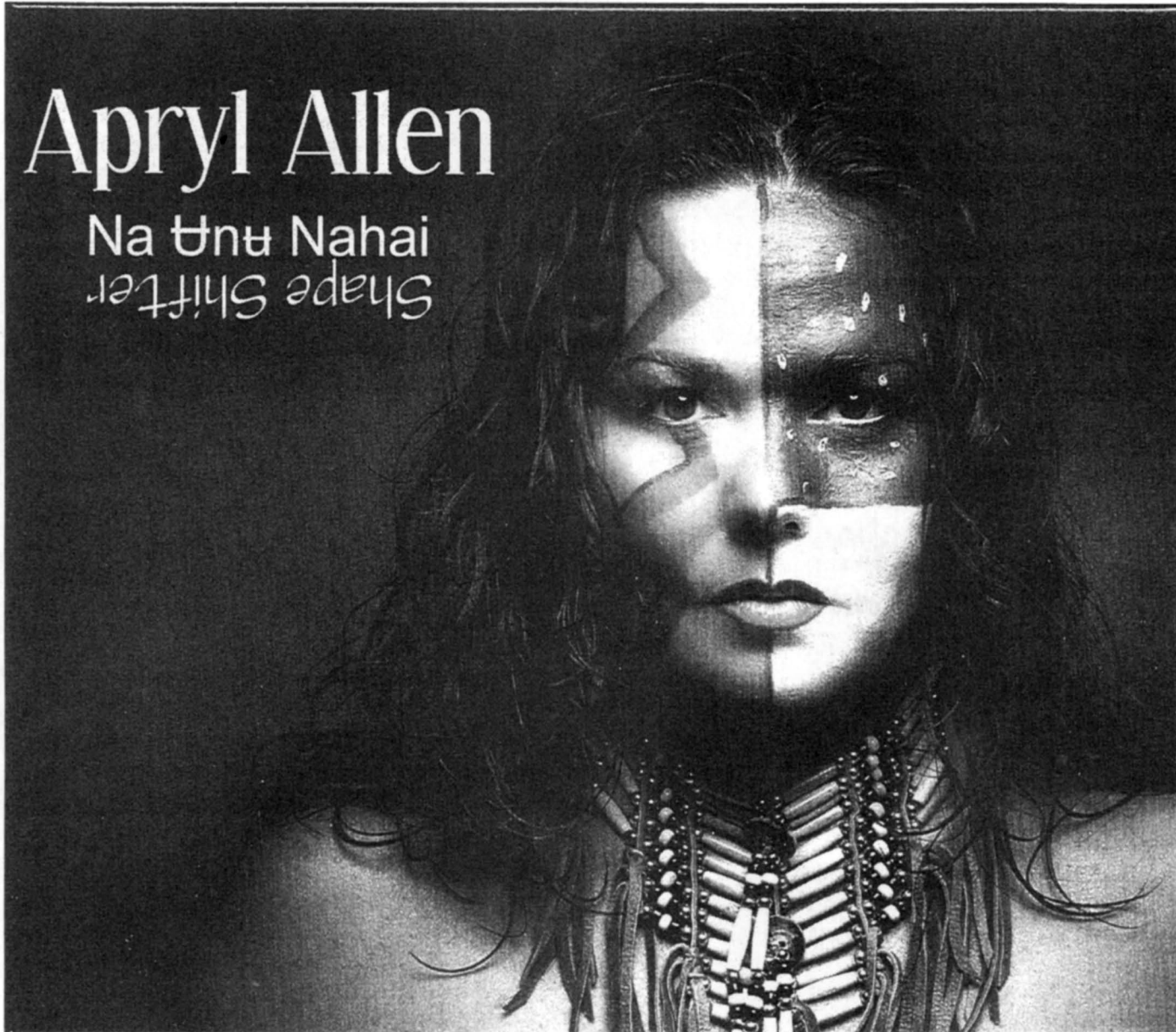
February 2010

## LIFESTYLES

### Apryl Allen Captures NAMMY and Preforms with the Phoenix Orchestra New Years 2010

## Apryl Allen

Na Unu Nahai  
Shape Shifter



Courtesy Photo



File Photo

Apryl Allen plays her flute at the Comanche Nation Complex Nov. 7, 2008 to promote her new CD *Na Unu Nahai* (Shape Shifter), which she received a NAMMY Award.

Visit Apryl's website at [www.aprylallen.com](http://www.aprylallen.com)

Apryl Allen, a member of the Comanche Nation and former Miss Arizona, captured her first NAMMY for Best Pop Recording at the 11th Annual Native American Music Awards for her song "Black Moon" from her album *Na Vnv Nahai* (Shape Shifter) in October 2009 at the Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Allen was nominated for a total of 4 NAMMY'S – all from the recently released *Na Vnv Nahai* (Shape Shifter) album, in the categories of Debut Artist of the Year, Best Pop Recording of the Year, Record of the Year, and Song/Single of the Year.

"I'm thrilled to be honored with a NAMMY, actually ecstatic is more appropriate! I am thankful for everyone who voted for me."

"Working with Apryl was a wonderful creative experience. It was inspiring to cross the musical barriers between cultures" said Richie Cannata Saxophonist (Billy Joel / Beach Boys) and Producer of *Na Vnv Nahai* (Shape Shifter). Apryl was the featured performer with the Phoenix Symphony at their 2010 New Year's Eve gala "Casablanca Nights" and also performed that same evening with Richie Cannata and The Family.

The Comanche National Museum featured her album *Na Vnv Nahai* (Shape Shifter) via remote transmitter for the Comanche Nation's 2009 Christmas Display.

Allen is a Voting Member of The Recording Academy (GRAMMY's), an Advisory Member of the Native American Music Awards (NAMMY's), a contributing member of both the GRAMMY's and NAMMY's, a member of ASCAP, and has additionally performed at the Cutting Room in New York, and at Native American special venues.

*Na Vnv Nahai* (Shape Shifter) also qualified in seven GRAMMY categories for the 2010 Recording Academy GRAMMY Awards.

*Na Unu Nahai* (Shape Shifter) is receiving extraordinary responses throughout the U.S. and internationally from fans as far as Western Europe and Japan. *Na Unu Nahai* (Shape Shifter) has been placed in the Comanche Nation Historical Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society (Indian Archives) and is merchandised at the Internationally recognized Heard Museum in Phoenix, Ariz., and the National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian Institution) in Washington, D.C.

Allen is becoming recognized as a unique talent with the ability to create lyrics and music that reflect her passionate outlook on life and personal experiences—varied and inspirational experiences that are shared by many drawn to her music. In a relatively short span of time Allen has written and recorded two albums. The first, *Morningstar* is a tour de force consisting of eleven songs that demonstrate her song writing ability across multiple musical genres – Blues, Jazz, Country, Pop, Adult Contemporary and others are represented in this compilation.

Allen's second album *Shape Shifter* is rapidly becoming a cultural phenomenon. What started as a personal journey in words and music through her Comanche ancestry has become a touchstone for Native Americans throughout the country and the world. Her ability to blend traditional Native American music and sounds with modern music and arrangements is a lyrical and musical marvel. World Music is the genre she is most categorized in with this album. This music comes from a place deep within her soul and inner being; it resonates with people from all cultural backgrounds.

Allen spent much of her formative years living on the Comanche Reservation with relatives and maintains close ties with family members and tribal elders that remain there. Her heart is never far from the grace and simplicity of the culture she identifies so strongly with.

The NAMAs honor national recordings that were released in 2008. Over 200 songs were submitted by artists from the U.S. and Canada vying for a NAMMY in 27 categories.

Nominees were submitted and selected by NAMAs National Advisory Membership consisting of individuals directly involved in recording, manufacturing, distributing and promoting Native American music nationally. Winners are selected by a combined vote by NAMAs national membership and the general public.

The Native American Music Awards (NAMA) was created as a method to propel Native music onto the national level and prove its viability in this professional industry.

NAMA launched its first awards show with 56 recordings. Today they receive more than 200 each year.