



# Full Bio

Written 2018

OK Sweetheart's new release 'Some Space' is the sweetest-sounding vicious 'kiss off' album ever made. Delightfully crafted by Erin Austin and her intuitive players, it is a rich collection of organic soul-pop sounding as legendary as an updated version of 'Dusty in Memphis.' Every chorus is a honeycomb of hooks; each verse carries as many twists as any genuinely classic 70s singer/songwriter LP.

The album is coming out in three parts: 'Some Space Part One' came out December 18th, featuring "Some Space," "Pranks," and "Let It Go"; 'Some Space Part Two' is released January 18th, 2019, with "We Can Do It" and "Simple"; and then the full album is out February 8th, 2019.

The much-anticipated 'Some Space' has been well worth the wait since Austin first recorded her band's debut in 2011, arriving in Seattle in 2014, and showing the several years of work that went into breathing smoldering, smoky life into its eleven glowing songs.

The lyrics of second song and key track "Have It All" frame how the album itself is a joyful grasp for life and its meaning: "Sometimes I think it's funny the things we do for money / What's the point of anything?"

Austin originally recorded a five track EP for her 2018 European tour. She then miraculously recorded six full songs in one day on September 10th, including jaunty bopping opener "Let It Go," the resplendent the deeply touching "Time of our Lives," "See What I See," the tenderly healing "Simple," and the absolute crushing closer title track.

"It is so heartbreaking for me," Austin says of the 'Some Space.' "I cried writing it. I cried recording it." It is about a lover who didn't reciprocate and gaslighted her, saying "he needed some space and then would go with

other women," she says. "He also stole money, racked up 20 thousand dollars on my credit card, and finally left me to marry one of those women." Feeling too close to see the truth for far too long, she grieves the ill-fitting relationship but celebrates the gratitude she has now in a much better place — and has created art to transcend her pain.

Most of 'Some Space' was recorded with Andy Park at Studio X in Seattle, known for working with Dave Bazan, Noah Gunderson, and other distinctive singer/songwriters the past two years. But another illuminating standout track, "Raging Flame" is one of three, along with "Pranks" and "I'm Not Losing It," that were produced by Ryan Hadlock (Brandi Carlile, The Gossip, The Lumineers) at Bear Creek in Woodinville, Washington in 2016. A burning down dream of music drama, "That song came from thinking about a story I heard of someone whose family members left a town in the middle of the night on a covered wagon to chase the dream of the west," Austin says. "It's the idea of escaping the drab monotony for a far-off dream of something more."

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Austin own journey started back East when she grew up in Oriskany, NY and then went to Oklahoma — hence the name OK Sweetheart — before coming to the Pacific NW after living in San Francisco, where her adult music influence started in December of 2007. "I made a choice to 'study' The Beatles," she says of that time, "They are my biggest writing influence." It's no



surprise that soon after she went on to win the John Lennon Songwriting Award for Pop.

In her hunt for more musical encouragement, she next found Harry Nilsson, Neil Young, and Randy Newman — artists who like herself can wrap incredibly universal yet subversive lyrical ideas within pure melodies and impeccable songwriting.

But also like those album-art stalwarts, she knows how to pull a stylistic trick or two. "We Can Do It" is a perfect example of a prime New Wave Exploitation hit from 80s Top 40. Austin says, "It's the most rock and roll thing I've ever done in my life! I wanted that bass tone and rhythm. I wanted to challenge myself to push into new territory with this kind of 80's/90's cheer rock." Unlike anything else on 'Some Space,' it is the super-catchy exception that proves the width as much as depth of her sophisticated palette.

About basing OK Sweetheart in Seattle, she says that since moving here in July of 2014, she says it feels the most like home she's ever felt in her entire life as a grown up. She now has community that isn't simply attached to a romantic relationship, a feeling on an album which, though it delves into painful territory, also evokes that sense of wonder in belonging. "I have solid friends here," she says, "I love this city and I love this entire state!"

OK Sweetheart played Europe in 2018, and Austin admits it was a challenge. "I went a little crazy," she says. "It was my first tour there. I told the agents I am a relentlessly hard worker. I asked them book me for whatever venue or market they wanted to and we'd see what stuck. So they did. There were 27 shows in 30 days! 18 days in a row straight. I went by myself. I knew on day two when driving from Osnabrück to Dresden and I started talking to myself, it was going to be rough."

She then took two weeks to detox and "get my brain back," resting with family and friends. But she went right back to work, collaborating on her Christmas music project Ladies with Lydia Ramsey and Miranda Zickler (Kuinka) and two others as well, plus co-writing,

recording, writing, planning, doing photo shoots, videos, and producing other artists.

OK Sweetheart leaves again for Europe after the Valentine's Day release show at Neumos, touring through mid-April. On this next romp she brings her band and carries a new oeuvre of beloved and engaging songs that will never let her, or us, feel alone again.