



AT THE INTERSECTION OF GREAT FOOD & GREAT MUSIC!! Here's an interview with one of tomorrow night's performers for the MAKE MUSIC NY concert, Friday, June 21st, in Ciccarone Playground .

BRONX LITTLE ITALY: Why were you eager to do this performance in the Real Little Italy in the Bronx?

RACHEL ZEVITA: I was born in the Bronx! Want to talk about people with Heart and Soul!?! (And the best baseball team in the world!!!) It's THE BRONX BABY!!!

I love Little Italy specifically: great food, great people, and the Botanical Garden that is just exquisite. Arthur Avenue is legendary, and so are the people (Dion and the Belmonts, anyone?) I hope to live up to the legacy of this space.

BLI: How long have you been performing?

RZ: My first "professional" gig was singing the national anthem when I was 7, but I've been singing since I was 4 years old.

BLI: Who are your biggest influences?

RZ: I continue to be influenced by a lot of Top 40 artists from Today: Lady Gaga, Florence Welch, Adele, Bruno Mars, Amy Winehouse, Katy Perry, Pink, Hayley Williams (from Paramore) and especially Janelle Monae,* who blends classical music, soul, rock, and hip-hop.

BLI: What was the best and worst thing about being on *American Idol*?

RZ: The best thing was waking up and realizing I could do my own music. It made me believe in myself. I dropped out of graduate school at the prestigious McGill University, and left the classical music community. I moved to L.A. after the show to pursue my own music and wound up with a record deal, my debut EP "The Echo Sessions, Vol.1" available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, GooglePlay (and more!), and the opportunity to tour the world, twice, with Armed Forces Entertainment.

The worst thing about being on American Idol was the public scrutiny; specifically: people writing articles about who I am and where I come from that were so far from the truth they weren't in the same zip code.

Come see, Rachel Zevita from American Idol Season 10, performing two sets of original music and covers of your favorite songs with her INCREDIBLE band at Vincent Ciccarone Playground from 8:30 to 10:00pm on Friday! She will be signing copies of her debut EP "The Echo Sessions" along with posters and headshots (all available for purchase) AFTER THE SHOW at: Antonio's Trattoria on 2370 Belmont Ave.