



**OFF THE SHELF**  
by Doug Holder

**Chiemmi: A Lawyer and Singer  
Songwriter who is "blessed"**

Ingrid Chiemmi Schreffler, known by the moniker "Chiemmi," is a 30 something, lawyer/singer/songwriter and journalist well-known on the Somerville music scene. A native of Hawaii, but a resident of Massachusetts since 1988, Chiemmi, (meaning one who is blessed in Japanese), came here to attend college and she eventually earned her law degree from Boston College Law School. In a biographical statement she writes: "I like telling stories which stems in part from my East/West heritage: work on folktales as an undergraduate, and I further carry it out in my daytime profession as an advocate."

Chiemmi hosts the monthly "Somerville News Music /Poetry Series" currently held at the Sherman Cafe in Union Square, Somerville. She also has a popular column in The Somerville News, titled "Chiemmi's Corner" that reports on the music scene through incisive interviews and articles.

In 2005 Chiemmi released the CD "Living On Two Coasts." She has played in such Somerville watering holes as "The Barren," "Toast," "The Skybar," and "PA's Lounge." I talked with her on my Somerville Community Access TV show "Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer."

Doug Holder: "Chiemmi" means "one who is blessed" in Japanese. Are you blessed?  
Chiemmi: I guess I can't complain. I feel lucky to write for The Somerville News, and to host the "Somerville News Poetry Series." I pen the "Chiemmi's corner" column for the News, and I post

of thinking about ideas. My thoughts evolve...whether I am using the sea as a metaphor or thinking about what it means to love someone.  
You are a lawyer as well as being a singer/songwriter. Do each of these feed the other?  
I like to think of them as being related. I don't like to have lack of continuity. It's hard to be one way in one role and different in the other. It's weird.

Does your life as an artist affect your credibility as a lawyer?  
I don't tell my clients that I am a musician. People have this idea that musicians are flakey. I'm in family law, so it may be more acceptable to be a performer.  
You were involved in the "Barren Project." It revolved around the Barren Pub in Davis Square, Somerville. Can you talk about it?  
I was involved with it in 2004. It was a fabulous project. It involved a compilation of the regular musicians that performed at the Barren open mic. We made a CD that was representative of a typical night at the Barren.  
Your best friend from law school is the daughter of Ed Sanders. Sanders was a member of the group the FUGGS and the author of "Tales of Beantnik Glory." Did Sanders politically focused songs have any influence on you?  
The fact that his group incorporated political ideas in their songs had an impact on me. I realized it wasn't totally off-base to do that. I've met him, and he has a very interesting way of thinking. His daughter is now a very conservative lawyer.

*Lyrical*  
**SOMERVILLE**  
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During my vacation at Peak's Island, Maine I met the poet Alison Ide-Pech. She told me about a poem she wrote about nursing her baby. It sounded intriguing, so I told her to send it my way.

**NURSING MUSINGS**

- She caresses my breast as
- She opens her mouth and
- Drinks in my milk with
- Divine satisfaction.
- Her body arches and relaxes
- Welcoming surges of sweetness
- Perfect white bliss.
- Her warm hand smooths
- The voluptuous creasing space
- She soothes my mind
- Meshes with my pulse.
- We are suspended between
- Balancing each other
- Bridging heaven and earth.

-Alison Ide-Pech

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:  
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