

# JACKIE VENSON VOTED BEST GUITAR PLAYER IN AUSTIN AND DROPS NEW ALBUM "JOY"

By Naomi Richard | VILLAGER Entertainment Editor

(VILLAGER NEWS)- Jackie Venson is indisputably on fire with her music career. This 26-year-old idiosyncratic singer-songwriter has the "It Factor!" She's got what it takes to not only write music, sing and play the guitar; but also, to create new sounds, work a crowd and to be a game-changer in the music industry. She is the epitome of an entertainer!

Some people copy it, some people learn it and others are born with it. I believe Venson was born to create music. Just watching this Austin native and graduate of the prestigious Berklee College of Music perform is an honor.

Recently, she was named "Best Guitarist" during the 2019 Austin Music Awards. She is the third woman in 37 years and first African American woman to do so. What a distinguished honor in a city deemed to be "The Live Music Capital of the World!"

On the heels of her recognition, Venson leaped into SXSW with both feet, to perform on the YETI x BMI Day Party



Jackie Venson accepting her Best Guitarist Award during the 2019 Austin Music Awards at ACL-Live at the Moody Theatre. Photo by Naomi Richard.

**Stage.** The music featured soul, country, indie, pop and alt-rock. Venson stood strong with fellow performers Logan Ledger, Willie Jones, Billy Strings, Illiterate Light, Katie Schecter, Wafia, JP Saxe, Republican Hair and Tomar & the FCs.

Forbes named her one of "15 Women- Fronted Musical Acts Getting Their Due At SXSW 2019" alongside

**Billie Eilish.** Originally a classical pianist, Jackie picked up the guitar shortly after graduating from college, and made the shift from the tradition of classical music to the raw-and-gritty blues and soul. Enthralled with music since the age of 8, this young star instantly captures your attention with a vibrant musical soul and passionate control of her instruments,

that reach far beyond her age. As she mindfully blends blues, rock, R&B, soul and more with her introspective lyrics, the message is clear- when you're listening to Jackie you hear the "Truth in Music".

To her credit, Venson has opened for headliners such as Aloe Blacc, Curtis Harding, Gary Clark Jr., Earth Wind and Fire, The Doobie Brothers, Los Lonely Boys, Bob Schneider, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and The Suffers.

Over the last year, she has lit up the stage at some of the most historic venues across the globe. Join Venson in celebration of her brand-new album Joy, and bear witness to what will surely be a milestone in her career. The history of a rising Texas star will be written at the Paramount Theatre on April 12, 2019, accompanied by "Sweet Spirit." This CD Release is sponsored by Antone's (location of the official after party), KUTX and the Paramount Theatre. Tickets are selling fast but still available at <http://www.austintheatre.org/>

## Texas charter schools are facing more backlash this year, but could also receive more cash

By Texas Tribune

(TEXAS TRIBUNE) - When the yellow scarf-wearing coalition of "school choice" supporters held their biennial rally at the Texas Capitol this January, the crowd was smaller than in years past.

One reason: Some of the state's largest charter districts had pulled out of the fanfare that frosty winter day, deciding to distance themselves from the advocates pushing for private school vouchers or similar programs.

"We backed out," Mark DiBella, CEO of the Houston-based YES Prep charter, said plainly. "I basically wanted to put as much distance be-

tween us and vouchers as possible given the nature of the feeling in Austin."

Funded by the state but managed privately by nonprofits, charter schools have held a unique political position in Texas, allying with voucher advocates under the broad "school choice" umbrella while also lobbying lawmakers to shell out more for public education. The decision to avoid the rally was emblematic of a larger strategy charter leaders appear to be using this legislative session as the political winds shift away from subsidizing private school tuition for Texas

parents.

As lawmakers discuss putting billions more into the public education system for the first time in years, charter advocates are leaning away from their association with private schools and leaning into their similarities with traditional public schools — while seeking the resources to educate the growing number of families wanting to enroll.

But the embrace is in many ways one-sided. Many traditional public school advocates remain wary of charter schools and their impact on tra-

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