



SINCE I WAS 4 YEARS OLD

I HAVE BEEN WRITING AND PERFORMING SONGS SINCE I WAS 4 YEARS OLD. PLENTY OF PRACTICE, NUMEROUS SHOWS, AND MANY EXPERIENCES HAVE BROUGHT ME TO WHERE I AM, WITH MORE PRACTICE, MORE SHOWS AND MORE EXPERIENCES AHEAD. I WOULD HAVE

IT NO OTHER WAY, BUT THEN AGAIN
MAYBE A FEW THINGS COULD BE
DIFFERENT.

MY GRANDFATHER

MY MAMMA TOLD ME THAT MUSIC HAS
BEEN IN OUR FAMILY AS LONG AS SHE
CAN REMEMBER. MY GRANDFATHER
WAS AN ADMIRER SINGER OUT IN
THE FARMING FIELDS OF A SMALL
TOWN (CARDINALE) IN SOUTHERN
CALABRIA, ITALY. THIS IS THE
TOWN MY FAMILY IS FROM. MY
GRANDFATHER WOULD MAKE
PERIODIC VISITS TO AMERICA AND
WORK ON THE RAIL ROAD'S DURING
THE EARLY 1900'S WHERE I AM SURE
HE SANG. SINGING WAS SIMPLY A BIG
PART OF LIFE FOR MY FAMILY AND

EVERYONE ELSE LIVING IN A SMALL FARMING VILLAGE. SINGING WAS A WAY TO PASS THE TIME WHILE WORKING OUT IN THE FIELDS, COURTING A LOVE INTEREST, OR FOR THE SHEER JOY OF IT. MUSIC IN ITS PUREST FORM, WHICH IS SOMETHING I SOMETIMES FORGET.

GROWING UP

I WAS BORN IN TROY, NEW YORK WHERE I GREW UP LISTENING TO THE RECORDS MY OLDER BROTHER DOMINIC WOULD PLAY SUCH AS THE BEATLES, NEIL YOUNG, THE BEACH BOYS, THE ROLLING STONES AND PRETTY MUCH ALL THE MUSIC THAT WAS POPULAR DURING THE 60'S AND 70'S. SINCE I WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS

OLD AT THE TIME, MY GUESS IS THESE MELODIES SORT OF GOT HARD WIRED IN MY BRAIN. MY BROTHER SAID HE PURPOSELY EXPOSED ME AT A VERY YOUNG AGE TO ALL HIS MUSIC AS AN "EXPERIMENT" TO SEE IF I WOULD SOMEDAY BECOME A MUSICIAN. WELL, I THINK IT WORKED.

GROWING UP I ALWAYS KEPT IN THE CORNER OF MY MIND THE FACT THAT I WOULD SOMEDAY GET INTO THE PERFORMING SONGWRITER BUSINESS. BUT ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR PLACE AND TIME, AND MUCH OF MY TIME DURING MY EARLY TO LATE TEENS WAS SPENT RUNNING TRACK. THESE MEMORIES OF RUNNING TRACK AND THE EXPERIENCES THAT I HAD

HAVE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN HELPING DEFINE WHO I AM. THE COLLEGE YEARS ARE WHEN I FINALLY PICKED UP THE GUITAR AND SAID OK, LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO. MUSIC FOR ME THE NEXT 10 YEARS WOULD BE A LABOR OF LOVE. I BEGAN PLAYING IN NUMEROUS BANDS, MAINLY TRIOS ON THE LESS POLISHED SIDE OF THINGS (SOME WOULD CALL IT PUNK). A FEW OF MY MAJOR INFLUENCES AT THE TIME WERE EARLY REM, THE VIOLENT FEMMES, THE CHURCH, U2, TO BOB MOULD AND THE REPLACEMENTS. MY BROTHER-IN-LAW JOHN QUINN WAS AN ALREADY ESTABLISHED GUITAR PLAYER WHEN I BEGAN PLAYING AND SERVED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MY EARLY DEVELOPMENT; BUILDING MY

CONFIDENCE AND TECHNICAL ABILITY.

FINDING MY VOICE AND CAFFÉ LENA | Mid-1990's

AS I MOVED INTO MY EARLY 20'S AND HAD A FEW BANDS UNDER MY BELT, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT I MAY WANT TO TAKE SOME VOICE LESSONS AND SO I DID. I MET DAVID ALDRIDGE AN EXCELLENT OPERA SINGER AND MORE SO A GREAT MAN WHO HELPED ME DISCOVER MY OWN VOICE. I PLAYED IN A FEW MORE BANDS AS I JOURNEYED THROUGH MY MID TO LATE 20'S TAKING WITH ME THE GOOD AND THE BAD. AFTER A DEVASTATING BREAK UP WITH MY FIANCÉ AND MY BUILDING INTOLERANCE AND FRUSTRATION WITH THE ROCK MUSIC SCENE, I WAS TOLD BY AN ACQUAINTANCE/MUSICIAN FRIEND (RICH VALDEZ), THAT I MAY WANT TO CHECK OUT THE CAFFE LENA

OPEN MIC, A VERY COOL PLACE WITH LOTS OF HISTORY AND WELCOME ARMS. WHEN I ARRIVED AT MY FIRST CAFFE LENA OPEN MIC, NOT ONLY DID I HAVE A BLAST, BUT LENA'S DID INDEED PROVIDE A WELCOMING EMBRACE. CAFFE LENA WAS A PLACE TO TAKE THE LOAD OFF AND GROW AS NOT ONLY AN ARTIST BUT AS A PERSON. FROM THAT POINT ON MY DIRECTION BEGAN TO MOVE TOWARDS THE SOLO ARTIST, ACOUSTIC GUITAR THING AND WELL, I PLAYED AND PLAYED AND PLAYED SOME MORE.

WILLIE THE MOAK A SINGER-SONGWRITER AND NOW LONG TIME FRIEND WHO NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION AT CAFFE LENA, SIMULTANEOUSLY BAKING COOKIES, RUNNING THE SOUND BOARD AND THEN PERFORMING HIMSELF, IS THE

HEART AND SOUL OF CAFFE LENA'S
OPEN MIC. OPEN MIC'S WOULD NOT BE
THE SAME WITHOUT WILLIE. WILLIE
HAS GUIDED MY DEVELOPMENT AS
BOTH PERFORMER AND SONGWRITER
SINCE I STEPPED FOOT IN LENA'S.
SARAH CRAIG, WHO KEEPS THE
WHEELS TURNING AT THE CAFFE,
BEGAN MANAGING /BOOKING WHEN I
FIRST STARTED ATTENDING THE OPEN-
MICS AND HAS NOW BEEN BOTH A
LONG TIME FRIEND AND SUPPORTER
OF WHAT I DO.

MY GUITAR

ALL THINGS IN LIFE BLOOM WHEN THE
CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT. AFTER
WATCHING THE FILM O BROTHER,

WHERE ART THOU? AND THEN PICKING UP THE SOUNDTRACK, I BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT MUSIC SHOULD HAVE NO BOUNDARIES AND THAT I DON'T NEED TO LIMIT MY STYLE TO SOME PRE-CONCEIVED NOTION OF WHAT I SHOULD BE. LIKE I HAD FOUND MY SINGING VOICE YEARS EARLIER, I NOW FOUND MY GUITAR. I REALIZED PLAYING THE GUITAR IS ABOUT EXPRESSING AN IDEA, FEELING OR THOUGHT THROUGH MELODY; JUST THAT SIMPLE AND FOR SO LONG SO ELUSIVE. FUNNY HOW SOMETIMES SOMETHING SIMPLE AS A MOVIE TRIGGERS SUCH A REVELATION.

A NEW FRIEND

IN 2004 I BEGAN RECORDING MY

VERY FIRST FULL LENGTH ALBUM,
APTLY TITLED MAURIZIO. BEFORE
EVERY SATURDAY AFTERNOON
RECORDING SESSION I WOULD MAKE
A QUICK TOUR OF THE DOWNTOWN
FARMER'S MARKET IN THE TROY
ATRIUM. IT IS THERE WHERE I MET MY
DEAR FRIEND TOM WINSLOW. TOM,
WHO PASSED AWAY ON OCTOBER 23,
2010; WAS A 2ND GENERATION
MISSISSIPPI DELTA BLUESMAN THAT
STUDIED UNDER REVEREND GARY
DAVIS, TRAVELED MANY ROADS,
COLLABORATED WITH SUCH ARTISTS
AS PETE SEEGER, DON MCLEAN, AND
WROTE THE NOW CLASSIC BALLAD
"HEY LOOKA YONDER" (ALSO KNOWN
AS "IT'S THE CLEARWATER"). MY
CONVERSATIONS AND FRIENDSHIP

WITH TOM IS WHAT HELPED ME FIND MY TRUE VOICE AND RHYTHM ON STAGE. IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING GENUINE AND PRESENT TO THE MOMENT. I MISS TOM VERY MUCH, BUT CARRY MY MEMORIES OF HIM IN MY HEART.

MY FIRST SOLO ALBUM

ON JUNE 25 OF 2005, I CELEBRATED THE RELEASE OF MY FIRST SOLO ALBUM AT THE LEGENDARY Caffe LENA TO A SOLD OUT HOUSE! I WAS EXTREMELY OVERWHELMED WITH EVERY EMOTION YOU COULD THINK OF AS I WATCHED THE LINES OF PEOPLE FLOWING INTO THIS SMALL INTIMATE COFFEE HOUSE TO CELEBRATE WHAT I

HAD DONE. THIS WAS AN EVENING THAT FUELS MY FIRE TO THIS DAY. THAT SAME SUMMER I WAS NOTIFIED THAT I HAD BEEN SELECTED AS ONE OF TEN FINALISTS IN A NATIONAL SINGER- SONGWRITER CONTEST HELD BY THE VERMONT SOLAR FEST. THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME PLAYING IN FRONT OF SUCH A LARGE CROWD (ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE) AND THE INTERESTING THING I LEARNED IRONICALLY ENOUGH IS THAT IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN THE AUDIENCE, IT'S ABOUT PLAYING THE SONGS TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY AND ENJOYING MYSELF. THAT'S IT, WHETHER IT'S A SMALL COFFEE HOUSE OR CONCERT HALL.

RADIO

Since the summer of 2005 my songs have been played on many of the local radio stations, specifically 102.7 WEQX a popular radio station in the Capital District. My song 'Right on Time' has been added to the OASIS Acoustic Satellite Radio Compilation CD. I played well over 200 shows in 2005 which provided me with invaluable performance experience and have continued this inspired pace with few breaks in between since then. I am really excited about what the future holds and continue to learn as much as I can.

S I M P L E Theory 2008-2009

After having played solo for about a

decade, I took up playing in a duo (Simple Theory) with my friend Brittany Robichaud, a young talented singer-songwriter. Within a 2 year span (2007 – 2009) we played hundreds of shows; mixing in our originals, with blues, jazz, country, you name it. The experience helped me fill out my voice and sharpen my lead guitar playing skills. As all things must come to an end, I felt it was time to go solo again, where I could get back in touch with many unfinished songs.

2010 – 2011 Writing lots of songs and Molly Durnin

Getting back to my solo efforts has put me in a place of inexhaustible writing.

I have been writing song after song as if to try and extinguish many of the strong emotions I have been wrestling with as I enter the middle part of my life. During these past few years the road I have been on has merged with my very good friend Molly Durnin. Molly is a young and extremely talented singer songwriter. She would come see me play when she was just starting to cut her teeth and actually burrowed some of my percussive guitar playing technique which she further perfected.

During this past summer of 2011 I helped Molly record her demo tracks for her upcoming 2012 demo album. While recording Molly's demo/songs I was completely overwhelmed by the emotion/soul, voice and technical precision that were spilling out of her.

Watching this all unfold, truly inspired me.

Many times when roads merge between people it's because they are on a similar journey trying to get to the same place. I have been quite involved in Molly's recent work with her upcoming album. This experience has taught me so much about myself and my own album that I am working on. Studying Molly's guitar style has allowed me to take my guitar playing to another level and because of this has opened new doors in my songwriting. It's a truly beautiful thing when giving becomes a circle of growth.

Molly and I have plans to co-write some songs together. Who knows what the future brings, we all do the best we can to follow our hearts and experience

being alive.

Recent News and Developments 2012

I am looking forward to begin work on my album with friend and multi-instrumentalist James Gascoyne.

James is an amazingly creative and positive soul, who plays in a wide range of different acts spanning from Electronic/Experimental to American Folk. He is part of some well-known local and touring acts such as Railbird and The Rodeo Barons. James and I became friends at The Circus open mic in Saratoga, New York; where he took a liking to my material and had approached me a number of times to collaborate and work on getting my

songs recorded in a more professional light.

So far we have recorded many of my songs in a very raw/live manner at James's apartment to simply get the ball rolling and offer an idea of where I am coming from.

As progress continues I will be sure to keep everyone in the know. I am both curious and excited to see what comes from what has been a very long road.

First Official Rehearsal for Upcoming Album

Wednesday February 8th, 2012 marked the first official rehearsal with bandmates James Gascoyne (Producer, Arranger, and Bass Guitar), Chris Carey (Guitars, Piano, and Organ) and Sam

Zucchini (Drums/Percussion). The rehearsal was recorded and we are currently reviewing the songs for our next rehearsal in which additional refinements will be made. I am truly excited and blessed to be working with such talented, kind-hearted souls. They get what I'm doing and if all goes well we will get where we are supposed to be with this album.

Casey J Chapman – Roads Merge 2012

The beginning of 2012 merged roads with Casey J Chapman and I. Casey is a wonderful singer-songwriter who I had known for almost a decade. After seeing one of her performances at Caffe Lena's in late 2011 I realized that something had changed; she had turned that ever so elusive corner. Casey and I have been sharing a good number of live

performances both local and out of town; bringing into the fold; harmonies, guitar, bass, ukulele and anything else we can get our hands on. Our collaboration has been a lot of fun and will hopefully produce some great recordings and live shows.

Tracks for 2012 Album Successfully Recorded at Black Dog Studio

I am happy to report that this past May, James Gascoyne, Chris Carey, Sam Zucchini and I; with the help of Engineer Frank Moscowitz have successfully recorded the music tracks for my upcoming studio album. These fine gentlemen did an excellent job! The next step will be James and I carefully reviewing the recordings to make sure everything sounds good and then plan the next phase (mixing, singing, backing

vocals etc.).

Kickstarter Fund Raising Campaign to Assist in Album's Completion

This last week in May, I plan to launch my Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign. Making a professional quality studio album is quite demanding on resources and time. Resources and time generally require money and this is where I will be reaching out to the community for help. I need a total of \$7,000 to make this album. This includes recording, mixing, mastering and an initial duplication run of 1,000 copies. Compared to most budgets this is very modest, but I am confident this will be enough to produce something great! I will be giving copies of the album in addition to other merchandise based on level of contribution. Although I wish I didn't have to reach out for funding, there is

something special about a community coming together to create something positive.

October 20 1 2 Came Quick – *Steady* Progress on Album

The summer passed quickly, but that seems to always be the case when the days are hot and sunny, filled with shows, family cookouts, festivals and in my case more shows. I had the pleasure of playing almost all my shows with my now girlfriend Casey J Chapman. Her backing vocals, coloration on Bass and Ukulele have made things more full and exciting. I have also been able to sharpen my lead guitar playing skills while backing Casey on her originals and covers.

Here I am in the middle of October; less live shows booked, freeing up time for me to refocus my efforts on completing the studio album. Recording my vocals

at home has been both a challenge and great learning experience. It only makes sense that when you put something under a microscope you see every grain of truth. As the saying goes, "The Tape Don't Lie."

October's Back Again (End of a Relationship and Continued Progress on The Album) | 2013

It's been a year and I am still recording vocals at my home studio. Life has been very challenging for me this past year. My schedule has been a testament in repetition, patience and necessity. To pay the bills I am part owner of a modest software company and then off to the gym in the evening to stay fit. After that I visit my mom who suffered a life threatening stroke 5 years ago. Most nights it's not until 10:30 PM that I arrive home to record; write music, practice guitar and any other music related stuff. As you can see it's a tight rope and any unexpected

events can set me back weeks, even months.

Recently my girlfriend Casey and I decided to remain friends and not pursue a romantic relationship. We still support each other in many ways, but alas, as easy as two roads merge there also comes a time when difficult choices must be made.

I have some positive news to report in that I have completed more than half the songs for the album and have found an excellent mix engineer Jon Ervie. Jon has worked with OK Go, Presidents of America, and Brandi Carlile's latest "Bear Creek." I look forward to the completion of this album and celebrating the release with everyone. It's been a long road thus far and my love for music is what has kept my tank full.

2 YEARS GONE IN A FLASH, ALBUM DEBUT SET FOR SUMMER | 2015

I can't believe 2 years have gone by and I am still wrestling with the completion of this album. I am guessing a good number of people have figured this will not get done and I don't blame that opinion. Although not much recording has taken place, I have been still playing lots of shows, writing many new songs, recording/archiving all my performances and hope to pull everything together for a big release party this summer of 2015.

Jon Ervie the person that was originally mixing the album moved on to other opportunities. The split was amicable. Looks like I will have the album mixed locally by Sten Isachsen, who is an excellent multi-instrumentalist and

quickly gaining a great reputation for his mix engineering skills.

No Turning Back Now! Sept. 26 -2015 | ALBUM RELEASE PARTY!

The date is set! I can't turn back now! Mixing begins in early August, and then it is off to the presses!

My debut studio album 'BEFORE THE CROWD' will be officially released on September 26th at THE HANGAR in Troy, New York. I can't believe how long this album has taken and yet at the same time I can. Looking forward to celebrating with everybody that has supported me and sharing a great album!

Single '**Dulcinea**' receiving air-play on 97.7 WEXT! August 2015

So happy that 97.7 has Dulcinea in their rotation! Every little bit helps in launching my new album '**Before The Crowd**' Next week begins my marketing campaign in earnest for the September 26th Album Release Party at The Hangar in Troy – New York!

Disappointed and Grateful (Album Release Party) 2015

Well, what can I say?

Although some would call me a pessimist, I think I am more of a realist.

My album release party on September 26th was poorly attended and left me in a deficit both financially and emotionally. I have given lots and lots of myself to what

I call the local music community. I truly thought there was something special about it and maybe there is and somehow I am missing something. But after 25 years of playing music locally (only missed two shows out of thousands of gigs), religiously supporting local acts, helping young newcomers get their feet wet - on and on... I stood before a sparse audience when it was time to take the stage and celebrate my album (ironically entitled 'Before the Crowd'). I played an inspired set for a group of people that I am so grateful for (mainly comprised of family and other band members). I made it a point to list each person that was at my show on Facebook to show my appreciation. But where was everybody else? I know there was a wedding that some musician friends attended, there was a 50th Birthday for another friend and another album release party that seemed to have drawn well. But where were so many of my friends, fans and

people that said they were coming?
People I thought for sure would be there?
The week leading up to my show, all I received was messages saying sorry I can't make it. The day after my show, I continued to receive messages from people why they couldn't make it. Some said they had no excuse and were sorry. I understand that it was a bad Saturday to have chosen -luck of the draw... but at some point I have to take this personally - but in what way? I still am confused as to why there was such a small turn out... I'm not sure as how to navigate forward within this music community... maybe I just continue to do what I do because that is what I am and take this experience with a grain of salt?

I worked so hard on this album and am very proud of it. This album has literal blood and sweat all over it. Maintaining a day job and helping with the care of my elderly mother left me with small

windows of time to record this album - mainly weeknights from 10:30 PM going past midnight. The songs are well crafted and sit well together thematically. Every line I sang and played were like brush strokes on a canvas. At the end of the day, good things speak for themselves and the time invested will hopefully translate to future benefits/opportunities.

I am ultimately grateful to have my working hands to play guitar and voice to sing my songs. I have gigs every week and get to bring some joy/escape to the people in attendance.

I'm still scratching my head on where everybody was... but hey maybe my album title is prophetic in that 'Before the Crowd' actually means Before the Crowd showed up... so here's to the crowd I look forward to meeting!

Completion of my Social Media Website – May 2016

After many months of chipping away at the completion of my website –it is done!

I'm hoping that my site will serve as a place for both existing and new fans to listen to my music, watch videos, and stay up to date on the latest news and developments.

Although I think technology in many ways has created such a flood of over information in the music industry, it also provides independent artists such as me, the ability to reach out to a broader audience around the world.

I'm looking forward to the possibilities and sharing my progress with you all, every step of the way.

October 2016 – Have to keep trying...

Well, it's autumn again and I sometimes wonder what I do with my time. Always grasping at something just out in front of me, hoping that I'll finally get there. Truth is none of us probably ever get 'there'; it's all in the journey where life is actually happening. Priorities in my life have taken precedence over dreams and to me that is all the difference. I do however hope that at some point in the near future new opportunities will arise that broaden my experience and serve as a catalyst for growth. I have played lots of gigs this past year and with that some noticeable improvement in my overall performance. Here is hoping and trying real hard to get to another level.

Here is Hoping – June 15, 2017

I can't believe my last post was October 2016. I guess better late than never. Nothing news worthy to report on except for performing at Albany's Tulip Festival. The Tulip Festival is one of Albany's premier music events. It was an honor to be asked but the heavy rain hindered the turn out. Only 6 people showed up to see my performance. I was told there should have been about 500 people. None the less, I put on the best performance that I could for those 6 amazing people standing in the rain. I have been continuing to write new songs and in the process of updating my website, along with all related social media. I'm going to try and give my music one more push and see what happens. If I am meant to be on this road then some good things should start to happen.

October came and went – November 7, 2017

Well, once again here I am with another October in my rear-view mirror and it seems I didn't accomplish what I set out to do. Maybe I'm too ambitious considering other priorities I have? I know what I need to do to make progress with my music but I'm just not getting it done. Musically I have made progress with new songs and a better overall show. I guess at the end of the day that's what's most important, but the marketing and recording end of things needs to be made a priority if I want to move forward. Let's see what I accomplish in the coming months. In other news, I'm excited to be starting up Sunday Sessions at The Rustic Barn again. Such a great sounding room and stellar staff.

3 for 3: **Another October Slipping By... 2018**

Well, history indeed does repeat itself and so do I along with it. Time is a funny thing. A day can feel so long and yet another year has gone by quickly and I am typing the same message. Maybe the fourth year in a row is a charm? I'm not getting any younger and don't fool myself with young dreams but I'm hopeful I still have something left to offer. I get a passing grade for effort and somehow I need to find that extra focus to accomplish some of my goals. I just want to see a few things through. Get most of my songs documented in demo form at the very least. Properly market my music online and seek out opportunities that help broaden my audience. Fingers crossed next year it's not the same story being told.

New Year 2019 – Bringing People Together Concert

What can you do when dreams seem farfetched but there is nowhere else to turn? You just keep trying. Maybe it's in the very process of putting forth effort that gives us meaning. As the old saying goes, it's the journey that should be appreciated. I've been playing lots of bar/restaurant gigs these past years and got away from doing more formal concerts. I understand that in life it's all about giving while also trying to make a living. I've planned a January 26th concert at The Arts Center of the Capital District. They have a wonderful 100 seat black box theatre. I'm going to be working with Dalbec Sound (the architects of the theatre's original sound system) to bring the sound system back to its original stellar form for the show. It's been quite a few years since I last performed there and my hope is to put on a great show

and breathe new life into such a gem of a place. My other hope is to build community through all my friends/fans that have come out to my bar gigs and bring everybody together in one place where the music can be heard in a wonderful sounding room and people can get to know each other over some food and drink during the intermission.

Here is hoping for a successful evening that leaves everybody feeling entertained.

Arts Center Show in the Rear View Mirror but looking ahead with **Experience - February 2019**

My January 26th Concert at The Arts Center of the Capital Region was an overall success. The audience was made up of mostly family and a few great

friends/fans. As days pass, I look back more fondly on this experience. I hadn't done an intimate concert in years and with the addition of coordinating/providing food and drink for the intermission, I was pretty well under the gun. My very good friend Joel Patterson and his girlfriend Deb Cavanaugh saved me by helping to set up the food and merchandise tables. Joel and Deb did an incredible job of capturing the evening through video and stellar sound/recording. I look forward to sharing some of these videos with the public soon. My hope is that these videos help support my cause in doing more of these shows in the future and open up new doors. Overall the night was a success and solid learning experience to make it an even better show next time around. Here is hoping for more good things in 2019.

MY HEART AND SOUL

I keep this note at the bottom because my mamma is truly my heart and soul. She is my safe harbor within. She raised me to be honest and pure of heart. She taught me to sing with a smile and genuinely care about others. If I am in the right place during a performance it's because I have her spirit and her heart. I am lucky to have been raised by such an amazing, funny and loving person.

My mother suffered a stroke in 2008 which left her paralyzed on her right side and without speech. It seems the only mercy that was bestowed to her was her ability to sing. Second to my mother's passion for family is singing. Every Sunday, I visit my mom and we

sing Italian folk songs around the dinner table. Life is a bittersweet journey with a surprise almost at every turn. Here is hoping for more good than bad.