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Stephanie Tucker Little



STEPHANIE TUCKER LITTLE is also an avid songwriter herself and a seasoned performer. Most of the songs on her next CD will be her own original material. She usually finds a melody first and then adds the words. She tries to write about things that have happened and tries to paint a picture with the words. Sometimes she writes the chorus first but for the most part, that comes after trying out the melody with lyrics to see how the puzzle fits together. Also, if it works out, she will insert a bridge. She wants listeners to relate to the lyrics and let the music glide through the story of the song. She mostly writes ballads but writes country and jazz songs, too. She was introduced to SOWI through one of our former judges Cham Laughlin. (Cham was also a presenter at one of our annual seminars. He unfortunately passed away a few years ago.)

Recently, Stephanie's CD titled "When Sea Shells Dance" which was recorded by Cham Laughlin, has been playing at Saks Fifth Avenue, New York, on the 5th floor. It is still being played on radio in 17 countries. It was recommended for the best album in Belgium in 2007, the year it was released. There is a link to it on Stephanie's website. Her version of Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" was included in a compilation CD of songs recorded by various artists performing that song. Her album was in the Time Life series for Tennessee Waltz for artists doing versions of Redd

Stewart's song of the same name.

Stephanie performs on seven instruments, by ear, and last year a newspaper article was written about her career to date, including information about the book she is in regarding JEB Stuart called "Life After J.E.B. Stuart" and she will also be included in the book soon to be released, entitled "The Stuart's Of Virginia" as she grew up very close friends with Marrow Stuart Smith, the first grandchild of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. According to Stephanie, she was like a grandmother to her and Stephanie timidly honed her first playing the guitar by playing for her grandmother when Stephanie was a teenager. Stephanie has had the pleasure of playing on TV, doing commercials and performing concerts and playing nightclubs for a number of years. She looks forward to recording her next CD with a good friend of her late friend Cham Laughlin. She states, "It was Cham Laughlin that encouraged me, tutored me, and nurtured me in my music for recording my first album. My memories of our friendship and recording will continue to inspire me in my next CD."

“LOCAL MUSICIAN STEPHANIE TUCKER LITTLE POSES WITH HER GUITAR ON THE BANKS OF THE APPOMATTOX RIVER” -- (article 3-26-12 from Hopewell News)

Stephanie Tucker Little started playing piano when she was three. She's still playing music now, although she's expanded the number of instruments she plays to more than seven and switched her primary focus to the guitar. “It was always there,” the self-taught singer-songwriter said of her musical gifts. The Colonial Heights resident’s first album, “When Sea Shells Dance”, receives airplay in 17 countries, including the Netherlands, where she was asked to do a commercial for a radio station, and Belgium, where she is quite popular. Little said she regularly receives play lists from stations in Europe, telling her when her songs have played. The music that people are enjoying in this country and across the world was committed to record right here in Prince George County, where Little recorded in the home studio of her friend Cham Laughlin. “He was very talented and played lots of instruments,” Little said of her friend, who passed away in 2009.” “It was a very enjoyable experience playing with him. We had a great time.” The seeds for the record were planted when a church picnic in Petersburg moved inside to escape the heat of the Virginia summer. Little was drawn to the piano in the host’s living room. The church choir gathered around her as she played. A friend of hers who was involved in book promotion said he wanted to try promoting her music. To do that, she had to have a record. “I always wanted to do it, but I was too shy,” Little said of recording. Although she and that friend never worked together, that was the push Little needed to create something that is currently enjoyed all over the world. “I’m glad that he gave me that push, because without it, I wouldn’t have put it on an album,” she said. From the piano, Little moved on to other instruments, buying a ukulele with the money she received for her 12th birthday. When she was 15, her parents gave her a guitar and it was love at first strum. According to Little, nothing was more natural. “It’s in me to play,” she said. “I have to do it. If I did it in a closet and never let anybody hear me, I’d have to play.” Little was always shy about her musical abilities and first began to share her talent with Marrow Stuart Smith,

a woman Little regards as a close friend and “unofficial grandmother,” but who many know as the first grandchild of legendary cavalry commander General J.E.B. Stuart. “Marrow was the most remarkable person I have ever met!” Little wrote in the epilogue of Smith’s memoirs, published as “Life After J.E.B. Stuart.” In the end, it was Marrow who encouraged me with my music, giving me the confidence I needed at such a young and fragile time in my life.” Little’s memories of Smith will also be included in a soon-to-be-published second book by Sharon Stuart McCree called “The Stuarts of Virginia.” Little is currently preparing to head back to Prince George County to record a second album. This one will be a little more personal than the first, which includes folk classics, covers of songs by the Beatles and others, as well as some instrumentals she composed herself. “I’m doing a lot of my songs on this next album,” Little said. “Trying to put the shyness aside, I’ve written words to these songs.” At least one of the songs was inspired by an event that took place in Little’s own neighborhood. Another was inspired by her memories of Marrow Stuart Smith’s garden. Family, friends, faith provide Little with inspiration, as does water, which is a lyrical motif in many of her songs. “I have to be near the water,” she said. “It comforts my soul.” Little lives in Colonial Heights with her husband and a Yellow Nape Amazon Parrot called Corkey, who likes to sing along with Little and has a performance routine of her own. More information about Little, and her music, is available at www.stephanielittle.com

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