

# Coconut Times

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## Lauren Glick Goes to Nashville- by Brenda Golden

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Everyone knows by now that I considered Lauren Glick to be one of the most talented musicians around. That's why I chose her and her partner Kathy Denk as the Coconut Times Entertainers of the Year for 2006. . Some of you may not know, however, that Lauren is a multi-faceted musical talent. A graduate from Berklee School of Music, Glick has been playing piano and writing original compositions since her teen years. I'm not sure when she picked up the bass guitar but she's proficient and flamboyant on that too.

And then there's the voice. Lauren has that perfect blend of vibrato, range and projection that enables her to sing most any style of music. Fans have certainly noticed that most of the new songs added to the band's repertoire of late have been what's classified as country. To me they are just really good songs- and the ladies make them sound even better than the originals ( of course John Heinz on the fiddle and Gary Yokus on drums contribute to their success as well. And when Jeff Davis joins them on bass and David Wimbrow on keyboards to allow Lauren performance freedom, they really cook).

What seems to be attractive to audiences is the upbeat tempos and meaningful lyrics and her new songs have it all.

This leads me to the story of how Lauren's husband, Chris Shanahan, thought that the best thing he could give his wife for her birthday would be a trip to Nashville to record some new material that she has been working on. He called on his friend, music producer Chris Farren, to set things up. Some might remember Farren from his younger days playing music at Tio Gringo's and surfing with a group that included Shanahan, or Spike, as his friends call him. He still visits here for vacations. Farren's company, Combustion Music, is responsible for such hit tunes as "Jesus Take The Wheel" and produced Deanna Carter's album featuring the hit "Strawberry Wine" that the Lauren Glick Band performs.

True to his word, Farren hand-picked Nashville's best union studio players and set up recording time at Ocean Way where such stars as Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Cheryl Crow have recorded. Ocean Way is in a beautiful old converted church, purported to be haunted. Lauren says she didn't notice anything strange: she was totally focused on this awesome experience.

" I was told to submit eight songs from which four were chosen to work up," said Lauren in an interview this week. " It was supposed to be just basic vocal and keyboard but I digitally recorded harmony overlays I wanted too, so they could

get an idea of what I wanted it to sound like.” The process was fascinating, she told me, with the drummer acting as the leader who used a special Nashville Number System to chart the music for the other players.

“ These were unbelievable musicians,” Lauren said.” After one mixing room meeting, they got it right immediately- incredible!” Maybe not so surprising with the caliber of musicians on hand: the drummer tours with Reba McEntyre and the bass player is from Big & Rich. Also in the mix are pedal steel, fiddle and keyboard.

“ That first morning, from 10am- 1pm, were spent recording the instruments, then the union musicians went to lunch and on to other jobs,” Lauren continued. “ I spent the afternoon recording the vocals.” She returned another day for backup vocals and the mixing process.

Time was also well spent touring sights in Nashville with Chris: the Country Music Hall of F: a cozy ride around town in a horse-drawn carriage. And the music venues they visited at night were real eye openers for Lauren, she told me.

“ The best was the Blue Bird Café where signs every where say “ no talking”. It was humbling to hear so many talented people singing and playing,” she said, struggling to get that break that would launch them into a record label.

Fortunately for us, Glick says she’s happy to be home with friends and family and is candidly honest to say,” I’d rather be a big fish in my little pond. Here my band and I are appreciated and praised; there I was just another face with a song.” Wait ‘til you hear these songs, I say.

Lauren says her goal now is to record the other tunes she’d written probably with her own band , and release them locally for us and the many visitors in the summer who would love to take her music home.

“It was an awesome experience that had quite a sobering effect on me,” says Glick,” but I’m so thankful that Chris gave me the opportunity to do this. It was a great gift.” Her many fans, including me, are thrilled for her and can’t wait to hear all the music.