

MEGAN NICOLE



Photo by Grizlee Martin

KELSEY QUINN



KIM PREVOST



Photo by AnnaMaria & Mario

WOMEN WHO ROCK

Katy women making a name for themselves in the music industry

Written by Kennan Buckner



Photo by Cassy Athena

CARLEY NUNN



REBECCA LAIRD



ERIN EDER



MEGAN NICOLE

Megan Nicole, age 22, covered Kings of Leon's "Use Somebody" on YouTube and began a road to stardom no one could have predicted. She posted the self-recorded video back in 2009 and it reached over a million views in just two days.

A Guitar Named Pawn Shop

She got her first guitar as a Christmas gift in 2009. "When I first told my parents I wanted to play guitar they wanted to make sure it wasn't going to be a phase," she says. "My dad got me my first guitar at a pawn shop, hence the name 'Pawn Shop.'" She learned how to play, and 'Pawn Shop' was her faithful companion at her first open mic nights and restaurant gigs. Her pop music is sprinkled with hints of funk, Spanish, and urban sounds.

Moving up to Movies

Nicole isn't just making her move in the music industry; she hit the big screen as the leading actress in the film *Summer Forever*, which released in 2015. "*Summer Forever* was such

an incredible experience," says Nicole. "I learned so much from what goes into the pre-production of a movie, to creating it, to the final product." One of her favorite moments on set was when the director ripped his pants while dancing during an emotional singing scene.

- Lived in Katy for almost 18 years and attended Katy High School
- Attended the American Music Awards
- Hopes to start a fashion line
- Wants to perform at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo



New Music and Movies

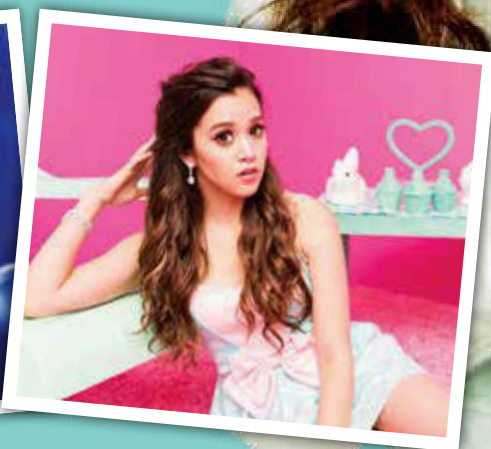
This year, she hopes to release new music, be in another film, and give back more. "I'll

wake up some mornings and just ask God to bless my creativity," she adds.

With new music on the horizon, Nicole's song "Fun" says it best. "We're just playin', we ain't misbehavin', we're just tryin' to have a little fun," and Nicole's definitely not stopping until she's done.



Photo by Grizlee Martin





KIM PREVOST

From her first public performance as a soloist at the age of 10, Kim Prevost, now 47, has become an artist all her own - full of soul, jazz, and rock - but music hasn't always been easy. "Some of the obstacles I have overcome in my music career have been my own insecurities I experienced when I was younger," says Prevost. "I have become more confident and secure with my voice, style, and message as a singer."

Love and Music

As young as age 4, and until her teens, Prevost sang in her church's gospel choir. "I pursued music even further in my college years, studying and performing in community theatre plays," she says. "Eventually, I met my husband, guitarist Bill Solley, and started performing jazz and writing original songs."

The couple's connection began soon after they met in 1996. She was hired as a singer and dancer for a band, and Bill was hired as the guitarist.

Her inspiration for music often comes from personal stories of triumph and tragedy. "My music vibe is very earthy and groove-oriented,"

shares Prevost. She encourages other artists to have purpose in their music. "Just know when you write or perform that your music can bring purpose to someone's life."

Inspiration Through Music

In addition to having songwriter's credits for various artists, film, and television, Prevost says she and Solley hope to finish a brand new recording by the end of the year. She hopes their music will be an inspiration to others for years to come.

- Katy resident for 10 years and Hurricane Katrina survivor
- Has a 12-year-old daughter, Sophia
- Performs with husband Bill Solley - Just released their fifth recording "Sky High"
- Performed at the New Orleans Jazz Festival

ABOUT KIM



photo by Anna Maria & Mario





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KELSEY QUINN

Photo by Alex Friedland Photography

The first time Kelsey Quinn sang in public was as a fifth-grader at the Nottingham Country Elementary School (NCE) talent show. “I sang over the actual track and they cut me off halfway through the song because my allotted time was over,” says Quinn, now 24. Katy still holds a special place in the artist’s heart. “I’m lucky to have a lot of love from Katy,” says Quinn.

A Cross-Country Move

Quinn and her family moved to Chicago in the middle of her freshman year at Taylor High School. The move provided inspiration for her. “I started writing after that because I needed an outlet,” shares Quinn. Once she began writing and singing the lyrics, her creative juices started flowing. “There is always feeling behind a good piece of art. It’s a way of self-discovery and worldly discovery.”

Chasing Dreams

Her soulful sound resonates with fans. “My upcoming album is pop,

contemporary, and indie, but I like to brand it as ‘toy music,’” shares Quinn. “Every song is an open letter to a girl in need of a best friend’s advice. My music is valued in its failures and flaws.”

The artist is preparing for a charitable tour while working on an album. “I am performing with Sir the Baptist and ChuchPeople,” says Quinn. “You can catch us on stage at Bonnaroo, Sasquatch, South by Southwest, and more of the country’s top music festivals this year.” It’s her first touring experience, and the artist says she is trying to soak it all in.

She encourages fellow music hopefuls to believe in themselves. “Surround yourself with like-minded people. Create your own vision, mission, and set goals to make them happen.”

Quinn tries to visit Katy at least once a year. “Katy feels like home to me. It always will.”



ABOUT KELSEY

- Went to Taylor High School
- Tours with Sir the Baptist and ChuchPeople
- Performed at South by Southwest
- Voted “Most Likely to be Famous” by MPJH student body



Photo by Alex Friedland Photography



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CARLEY NUNN

Carley Nunn, age 21, was born and raised in Katy. She grew up listening to bands like Earth, Wind and Fire; Michael Jackson; The Gap Band; and Prince. “Ever since I can remember I’ve had a passion for entertaining people,” says Nunn.

Getting Creative

Nunn plays piano and enjoys writing with other artists and on her own. “I get song lyric ideas popping in my head at random times of the day or even in a dream, and I always make sure to write those down,” she says. “If something comes out that I like, I’ll sing it over and over again to make sure it stays in my head until I’m able to record it,” she admits.

A Leap of Faith

After high school, Nunn attended Baylor University, but something wasn’t sitting right. “I couldn’t visualize myself graduating from there so I began to pray very hard about what I should do.” Nunn visited Los Angeles that spring and decided to

move there to pursue her music career. “I’ve had to overcome a lot of doubt and fear,” says Nunn. “There’s been many homesick nights, frustrating days, and lots of negative thoughts such as, ‘Am I crazy for doing this?’ But with the love and support of

my close circle [and family], I’ve overcome all that and will continue to do so.”

Hometown Support

There are many ways Nunn’s Katy friends and family support her. “My parents send care packages and cards often,” she says. She and her sister also exchange handwritten letters. “We’re both in a fast changing, crazy time in our lives so we thought sending letters might be a way to document it.” Nunn hopes to make her hometown proud. “Katy has always had my back. It’s an amazing feeling knowing your hometown is behind you.”



- Attended Creech Elementary, Beck Junior High, and Seven Lakes High School
- Dreams of being a musical guest on *Saturday Night Live*
- Her goals are to win a Grammy Award and win a Tony Award

Photo by Cassy Athena



Photo by Claire McAdams Photography





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REBECCA LAIRD

Photo by Debora Small

While Rebecca Laird, age 23, admits people don't usually expect guitar-shredding blues to come from a short, red-headed, introverted woman, she says, "It shouldn't surprise people that a girl would want to play an electric guitar."

How It All Started

While growing up in a homeschool environment, her parents introduced her to all types of music. "My favorite genre was rock, so eventually that led me to learn how to play the guitar." She started playing guitar at age 13, and her first gig was at a rock music summer camp.

Battle of the Blues

Laird's career took off when she was a Guitar Center Battle of the Blues finalist in 2012 and she played at the grand finals in Los Angeles. "The Battle of the Blues was an overwhelmingly positive experience, even though it didn't go smoothly, and I didn't win," she says. The sound engineer forgot to turn her volume up, which meant Laird played most of the song without being able to hear herself.

Traveling the Globe

Laird went on tour in Ireland and Scotland last summer. "The singer I usually play with, Cari Q, and I did all of the booking for the tour ourselves. We found that people over there have a profound appreciation of music and musicians and that they especially love Texas blues."

She is currently a student at Houston Community College - Katy Campus and will graduate this spring with an associate's degree in music. She hopes to continue her studies in musicology or ethnomusicology, which is the study of music in a sociocultural context.



- Toured Ireland and Scotland last summer
- Musical inspiration is Stevie Ray Vaughn
- Began playing guitar at age 13
- Volunteers at Brookwood, playing for their citizens

Photo by Rose Ayala

ABOUT REBECCA

The Creative Process

Laird plays and teaches mandolin, bass guitar, ukulele, banjo, and lap steel guitar, all while learning keyboard and violin. She finds inspiration in everything from books, poetry, and touring. "I've written more songs while touring than anywhere else," she says.



Photo by Debora Small



Photo by Rose Ayala



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ERIN EDER

“My musical talent dates back to my own family’s creation of Katy Creative Arts, now West Houston Charter School, the first public charter school in Houston,”

says Erin Eder, age 26. “The school became a center for fine arts for children. That’s where my dreams began.”

True to Her Roots

She works as a full-time teacher at Wharton High School teaching theatre, dance, and music, but still manages to make time for producing and promoting her music. “I want people to enjoy my music and respect me for who I am,” says Eder.

Her musical style is a southern blend of sultry sophistication and sass that tells melodic stories. “I sing a little country with a whole lot of soul.”

Walking the Red Carpet

Eder had the opportunity to attend the Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tennessee in 2014. “I had Steven Tyler and The Band Perry in front of me, with Luke Bryan behind me,” shares

Eder. She was happily surprised to find her red carpet pose featured in several publications, including *USA Today*. “I felt like Cinderella,” says Eder. “It was a night I will never forget.”

- Latest EP is “Loosen’ up the Buckle”
- First debut was at the Katy Rice Harvest Festival
- Attended Hayes Elementary and Katy Creative Arts
- She is inspired by her students



Chart-Topping Songs

Her *Fresh off the Red Carpet* EP featured “Strong Shot of You,” which made the top 40 list in its first two weeks of airplay. Eder recently

released another single from her current EP called “Loosen’ up the Buckle” about being a good girl finding “just enough trouble” on Saturday night. She plans on going back to the CMA Festival and attending the Josie Award Show. “I will always be making music,” says Eder. “It’s part of me. It’s who I am.” **KM**





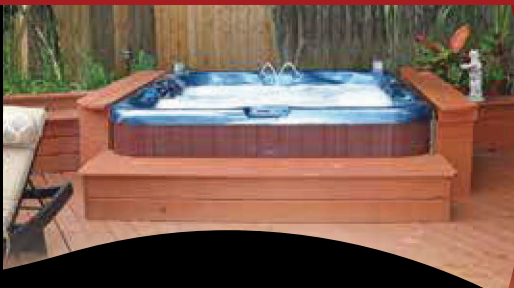
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