



# A Katy Musician with Heart

**Kristen Stever takes center stage with inspirational songs**

*Written by Cherri Northcutt  
Photography by April Pizana Photography*

***Follow your dreams!*** This is the advice of Katy singer and songwriter Kristen Stever, a recent graduate of Texas A&M University and an alumnus of Cinco Ranch High School. “Go for it!” she shares, adding, “Write what you feel and know.” Since graduating from college, she has taken her own advice and is now busy promoting her debut album *Hearts Collide*. “Somewhere during [my] four years at college, I realized that marketing wasn’t my passion,” she says. “I think that passion is important in anything you’re doing.”

Katyite Kristen Stever, a Cinco Ranch High School grad, began singing and writing songs at an early age

## Connecting with Music

Stever has always connected with music and feels called to share her artistic talents with others. “It’s always been something I dreamed about, but I never thought it was realistic,” she shares.

Stever, who plays guitar and sings, comes from a musical family. Her mother, father, and older brother all play guitar, too and helped introduce her to her passion. “Mom handed me a guitar when I was in seventh grade,” says Stever. “She showed me five chords and said to have fun learning how to play.”

Along with playing the guitar and singing, Stever expresses her creativity by writing songs. “I loved listening to music, and if I couldn’t find a song that related to what I was going through, I [would just write] my own,” she shares. Over the years, she has filled notebooks with over 300 original songs she’s written.

## Soulful Style

She brings her signature acoustic Indie-pop style to life in *Hearts Collide*, with soulful songs that tell a story. “It’s often called a guy-bashing album,” she says, adding, “It’s really a reaction to getting your heart broken, but then moving on and finding hope.” Since the album’s debut, she has performed live, released Internet radio versions of songs, and contributed to Indie music blogs.

Stever began work on the album by choosing several songs she had written over the years and then asking her friends at Texas A&M to help narrow down the selection. She wrote the title track just before the recording session and feels that all the tracks complement each other.

“I hope that people find it relatable,” Stever says of her music. “It’s important that it’s actually speaking to other people, because if it only [speaks] to me, then it’s kind of a waste of time.”

## A Homegrown Artist

For musical inspiration, Stever looks to a variety of recording artists in different musical genres. “I get compared to Taylor Swift a lot,” she says, adding, “I’m a Texas girl, but I’m not a country singer.” She also enjoys music by artists like Blink 182 and the Beatles.

Growing up in Katy, Stever was in the choir at Cinco Ranch High School and sang in the church choir and praise band at Kingsland Baptist Church throughout her teen years. “The Katy community and people at my church have been such a great support to me, encouraging me and helping me grow in my talent,” she says. “I’ve had some really good teachers and friends at Cinco. It’s easier to feel confident in pursuing this career when you feel safe and feel that community around you.”

Stever’s faith has played a big part in her decision to go into the music business. She was a worship leader for her Christian sorority Philadelphia Sisters in college and currently sings in the adult choir at Kingsland Baptist Church. “I love [having] the ability to use music in worship,” she says. Though her songs are not religious

in nature, her music is positive and upbeat with clean lyrics and undertones of hope. “I’ve written some songs that were more religious, but I’m not pursuing that as a career,” Stever explains. “I’m not being in your face about my beliefs. I feel that it’s a dark world that needs a light, a positive influence.”

## Facing Challenges Head On

There have been challenges along the way, such as having to talk her parents Rick and Shirley Stever into her decision to pursue a career in music. They have been very supportive of their daughter, offering encouragement and financial assistance for her recording sessions along the way.

Other challenges have included making connections in the music industry, getting gigs, and putting together a

band. Stever has faced all of these obstacles head on through faith, prayer, and support from her friends and family. “It’s a challenge to get up every morning and say this is my full-time job – and not feel down about it, because it doesn’t happen overnight,” she shares.

As she looks to the future, her goals include getting radio air time, booking more appearances, making a name for herself in the music industry, and signing on with a record label. She also hopes to tour and eventually record another album. She adds, “I already have a lot of new material!” **KM**

*CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a freelance writer and has lived in Katy for 11 years with her husband and two daughters.*



Growing up in Katy, Stever sang in the church and praise band at Kingsland Baptist Church and was a member of the Cinco Ranch High School choir



## Hearts Collide

On her debut album, *Hearts Collide*, Kristen Stever performs a range of heartfelt songs in her signature Indie-pop style. Standout selections include "Even If," a fan favorite about living in the moment, and "Romeo and Juliet," a fairytale ballad featuring piano and the string section of the Houston Ballet Orchestra. Visit [kristenstever.com](http://kristenstever.com).

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