

DARLENE LOVE'S ALBUM IS SOULFUL, RAUCOUS, POWERFUL

By B. Derek Shaw



There hasn't been an album released this year that made me stand up and pay attention - until THIS one. You heard her for years, backing up various artists; however, no one knew who she was. That sultry voice belongs to the singer who was a member of the Blossoms, an uncredited "ghost" member of the Crystals and for the past 28 years performed "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" on David Letterman's show.

Now the greatest backup singer in the world is front and center getting her just reward, way overdue. Introducing Darlene Love is an ironic, yet appropriate, title for a soulful, raucous, powerful, offering that had me listening numerous times in a row -it's THAT good.

It all makes sense. When you have Steve Van Zandt as your producer and sing the works of Michael Des Barres, Elvis Costello, Desmond Child, Joan Jett, Bruce Springsteen, Jimmy Webb and more - a veritable who's who of songwriting superstars - it's bound to be knocked right out of the park.

The production, the sound, the complete package - even the song sequencing is spot on! At times the album feel is Jim Steinman/Meatloaf-esque. At other times Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound" is back. Each song ventures into a different direction. The presentation feels as if it could have been successful in the mid 1970's. Rather than one epic ballad stand out, the entire album IS an epic ballad, building with each successive song. Listening the first time, I said, "Wow that was a great song. Nothing can top that." Then the next one comes and it's as good or better. The album is a living event as only Darlene Love can deliver. You can tell she's enjoying her performance.

Opener "Among the Believers" sets the pace with Love in FULL control. From the start the listener can tell she owns this LP. "Forbidden Nights" has a mid 60's feel, updated for now. "Love Kept Us Fooling Around" has an almost sing along quality. "Little Liar" is an updated, ebb and flow cover of the Blackhearts late 1980's hit. Love joins Righteous Brother Bill Medley for a duet with the ballad, "Still Too Soon to Know".

"Who Under Heaven" is very orchestral sounding - very powerful - an exceptionally moving song about war. It starts with a cadence, then a strong performance by Love. "The world's been fighting for ten thousand years. Counting the tears living in fear." The two minute instrumental in the middle really soars. I thought I was in the middle of a TSO (Trans Siberian Orchestra) performance. The last part ends with a background chorus and Love's commanding voice.

"Night Closing In" is pure Boss and the E Street Band. In fact, it IS an unreleased Springsteen tune. ("Just Another Lonely Mile" is his second offering, unreleased as well and delivered just as well.) My only minor criticism of "Lonely Mile" is that it starts off so mellow it takes away from the rest of the rousing tune. Love continues to deliver on BOTH of these gritty songs. The driving "Painkiller" has a Tina Turner sound alike delivery. "Last Time" is another power ballad that Love pulls off with her commanding voice.

Phil Spector would approve of Darlene's treatment of his and Jeff Barry/Elle Greenwich's "River Deep, Mountain High". "Sweet Freedom" penned by Mann/Weil is infectious, while "Marvelous" is a stirring ballad The 61:58 minute offering culminates with Van Zandt's gospel-tinged, "Jesus Is the Rock (That Keeps Me Rolling)". Can you say Hallelujah? Amen!



KEY NOTES

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December 2015 ISSUE #212 Inside... Gifts, Rejoin, Vote Berks County Record Lady Sensational Slogan Selected Love the new Darlene CD and more!

KRC MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Buying a club membership for the music collector spouse, cousin, uncle, grandparent, co-worker or friend makes an excellent stocking stuffer gift for the holidays. For a nominal \$15 a year, someone you know can enjoy (or continue to enjoy) a membership in one of the world's largest organizations for music collectors. Membership provides six issues of the KEY NOTES, the official club newsletter and KEY NOTES UPDATE, a monthly cyberspace communication and show reminder via e-mail. This is in addition to discounts on price guides, chart information books and special music and book offers that appear in KEY NOTES from time to time.

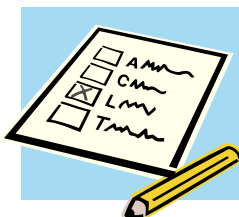
Selected music retailers in South Central Pennsylvania offer a cash register discount to card holding KRC members (an up-to-date list of participating retailers is available from Club Secretary, Erna Reinhart). If that's not enough, some record/CD shows throughout the Mid-Atlantic region offer discounts to attend their show with a current KRC membership card. What are you waiting for? Sign up your entire neighborhood today! Gift memberships may be obtained by contacting Erna Reinhart, 1616 Robert Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, call: 717-314-5009 or e-mail: beatlechas@comcast.net

DON'T LOSE IT THIS YEAR!

Your 2016 KRC membership renewal notice is included in this issue of KEY NOTES (as usual). It should be returned quickly so it doesn't get mixed in with monthly and holiday bills. Better yet, renew at the show TODAY. By renewing your membership early, you will be assured of a listing in the 2016 Membership Directory. You also won't miss out on any special offers that appear in many issues of KEY NOTES.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS



Also included in this issue is a ballot for selecting your 2016 club officer team. To vote, you must be a member for the upcoming year. Please fill out the top part of the form first (Renewal Application), then complete your ballot. Time flies, so don't procrastinate!

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Already, another year has come to an end? Where does that time manage to go?

The November 8th show was the first sell out in a long time. ALL of the vendor tables were taken at the end of the October 11th show with only ONE person cancelling out! We also maintained a waiting list for vendors in the event of no-shows.

Keep in mind if a vendor doesn't show up by 9:30 am, we will make the table available to someone who may want it.

Have a great holiday season and even better 2016!



More to come.

Dave Schmidt 2015 KRC President NRCMusings@aol.com

IT'S RIGHT HERE! 12 TIMES A YEAR!

(See article on page 2 that explains what that means.)

RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

It is appropriate to thank the 2015 officer team for their hard work this year. In an all volunteer-run organization, it is not possible to accomplish the many things on our agenda and organize a show every month without the continued efforts of many different people. So, whether it was a small one-time job, or a continued monthly commitment, thanks for another great year!



As we move into a new year, please give us your thoughts, suggestions, ideas and feedback on how we can make the Pennsylvania Music Expo and the KRC even stronger. At the same time, we NEVER discourage interested members who would like to volunteer.



Derek

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR 2015 OFFICER TEAM!

## KRC in 2016

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

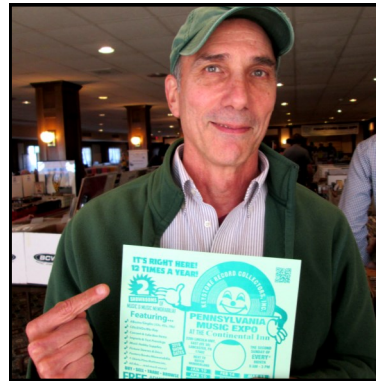
## THE CONTINENTAL INN

FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE - TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS.

BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS A SHOW WHEN WARRANTED.

## 2016 SLOGAN SELECTED



Each year when the Show Date Fliers are created, so is a slogan to go in the top left corner. The winning suggestion this year was made by long time vendor, **Neil Drucker**. He submitted a few different suggestions, including the one that was ultimately used. Thanks **Neil!**

This year's slogan, "It's a Sound Idea" was suggested by Show Coordinator **Steve Yohe**. Some of the slogans used in the past include: "Now Two showrooms of Music and Music Memorabilia"; "Always FREE admission"; "Music, Movies, Memories & More"; "Smack Dab in the Middle of Things!"; "Got Music? We Do!"; "The Largest Show of its Kind, By Collectors, For Collectors"; "Your Source For Music Collectibles!" and: "Make this your Vinyl Answer!"

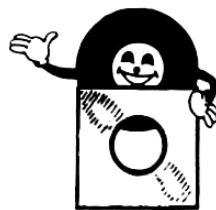
# IT'S RIGHT HERE! 12 TIMES A YEAR!

## HOW TO REACH US...

www.recordcollectors.org

Find us on Facebook  
Keystone Record Collectors

717-898-1246 CALL ANYTIME!



## KEY NOTES

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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#213 is January 10<sup>th</sup>)

Names in bold type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

## A FOND FAREWELL

It wasn't an easy decision to bring my regular set-up at the **Pennsylvania Music Expo** to a finale. In the 20 plus years that I've been a regular here, I've not only sold mountains of music to passionate music lovers, but I've made lasting bonds and friendships with the officers and my many great customers. (Were I to list everyone I'd want to, THAT would be this article; but those of you of whom I speak know who you are and how much I've enjoyed your friendship, company and our many, many animated discussions about the music we love so much!) I've greatly appreciated your loyalty and business!

**KRC** was different than all other record shows. Aside from it being a welcoming "club", it always drew a friendly, knowledgeable, generous and fun crowd. Never did I hesitate to turn my back on my table; I always trusted my customers 100%!

I did my best to try and always find specific items of interest for individuals once I had an idea of their tastes, and I tried to have enough variety for every genre and budget. In return I was fortunate enough to have developed a loyal following, and I will truly miss the "social" experience, which, in fact, was as much a part of my setup as the selling. Occasionally I'd even leave my table to "shop", and the **KRC** (was and is) a great place to do that!

Certainly there were sad times (the tragedy that took dear **Linda Lehman's** life, **Doug Smith's** untimely passing) and in some cases (as with my kind Lancaster host and close friend, **George Adams**) these lead to long term friendships which I can only liken to family relationships.

Perhaps the memory that always makes me smile is the day we all arrived at the Pennsylvania Jaycees Bingo Hall location and couldn't understand why there was no power until we discovered a tree had fallen and taken out the power lines. In the freezing cold, I kept my van parked in front of the hall, and brought out appropriate boxes (Blues, indie, rock, etc.) for each arriving customer. My chattering teeth and frozen hands actually added up to a pretty strong sales day -- what the heck - I was already there!

Although my "regular" days here have come to a close, perhaps I'll be able to make an occasional stop back; I certainly hope so. And it will be a treat to see all of you, and I'm not kidding! I feel I had a very good run here, and any of you are welcome to contact me at: relative action@verizon.net

In closing, I thank the **KRC** and shoppers for all they have done for me, wish everyone a splendid and healthy holiday season. And until we meet again, as the song goes, "Happy Trails" my friends.

-Crez Capece



## JOYCE GORDON: The Record Lady (of Berks County)

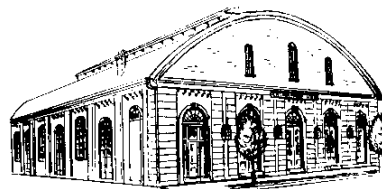
By Karen Russell. Preface and editing by Phil Schwartz

*In the early years of KRC, there were two well-known ladies who operated home-based record businesses in the region. Ruth Faus and her son Carmino traded vinyl out of their legendary record basement on Coral Street in Lancaster. In Berks County, Joyce Gordon earned the title of Record Lady, selling from her home in Birdsboro, Pa. For the past year, Joyce's daughters, **Karen Russell** and **Teresa Gordon Boyer** have been carrying on the family tradition. With the help of their dad, **Jim Gordon**, they have become regular vendors at the **Pennsylvania Music Expo**, always bringing a fresh variety of vinyl and CDs for shoppers to peruse. Here is Joyce's story, as told by **Karen**:*

My mother was born on July 11, 1940. My father, James Gordon is now 76. They met at the Reading Fairgrounds farmers' market when he was 12 years old, working at a produce stand. She was 11, and worked at her mother's novelty stand. They both developed a good sense for business and resale.

In the early 1970s, Joyce bought a large box of jukebox records, which she took to a flea market in Shillington to resell. She was very surprised to see how many people were interested in them, walking away with stacks at a time. Donnie and **Ted Puc** were her first customers. When she went home, she knew that there was something special about records. That was the beginning of a lifetime of collecting and selling.

My mother's customers grew. After buying a large collection from Pat Callahan, she had accumulated enough stock to host her first record sale out of the family living room in Birdsboro. This was so successful, that she turned the basement into her record showroom, hosting special sales there about four times a year. She would advertise in local papers, and hang signs out on the highway. She also participated in some of the early **Keystone Record Collector** shows at the Columbia Market House.



As kids, we would sit on the cellar steps and just watch all the people coming in to buy records. Bob Magaro and his wife Barb, **Bill Yuhas** (who went to high school with mom), **Frankie Tobolski**, and **Denny Thompson** were regular visitors to the house. I can remember a lady bringing in a blind man and she read every title to him. If he was interested in a particular record, she would help him put it on the player that my mother had set up. In the end, there were hundreds of collectors on her mailing list.

My mother mentioned Ruth (the "German" lady) on numerous occasions. She was a regular customer with my mother, so they did meet numerous times. My sisters and I would keep her driver Joe company, talking to him at the car, while mom and Ruth took care of business.

My mother collected Ricky Nelson and Elvis for her personal library. My father always preferred country music. I was a Monkees fan. A great memory was when my mom took me to King Of Prussia to meet Davy Jones. We left with autographs and a photo of me and Davy, which I will always cherish. My sister Bev collected Beach Boys, and Teresa was into stickers. Mike Galdun was a good customer during the record sale days, and used to bring her stickers. We still get Christmas cards from him.

In 2005, my mother's health started to decline, making it difficult to continue the record sales. On January 17, 2013, she passed away at home, surrounded by her family and listening to her favorite music. Rich Surran wrote a very moving tribute to mom, speaking of their friendship, their mutual love of hummingbirds, and how much the records meant to him.

**KRC** has been a great source for us to sell the remaining records. We still have a lot of records to bring out and have also met many new collectors through **KRC** that mom would have loved. Keep a look out to see what we might bring next!

