

Nancy Deckant Biography

Nancy Deckant grew up playing guitar and it wasn't long before mandolin was in her singer/songwriter tool kit. "Music was religion in our house", Nancy says. "There were always musicians hanging out, Cat Scratch Fever blaring out the windows of the car wherever we went." It doesn't hurt that Ted Nugent is her 3rd cousin. "Ted and I have not met yet, but I have fond memories of the T-shirts he's sent to our family reunion, and he's always there serving to remind that anything is possible if you are true to yourself and put your music out there."

For Nancy Deckant, writing songs and playing music came before her career as a visual artist, but her first album "Life Jacket" has come after she has solidified her place in the Pittsburgh Art Community as an 'Emerging Artist'. Nancy says, "2010 was a big year for me in art. I had a chance to establish myself and grow a customer base. Once that was accomplished, I knew it was time to expand and put music front and center. In early 2010 the years of practicing songwriting started paying off as new songs started to come together. The songs were getting more commercial sounding and I had found myself consistently writing in the country rock genre. I knew it was time to do this album."



Nancy is one of three local coordinators of the Pittsburgh Songwriters Network, a songwriting group sponsored by the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) whose main purpose is to help songwriters develop their songwriting skills. "In 2005 when I seriously started pursuing songwriting, I dug in and studied hit songs. As a songwriter, it's all-too-easy to get caught up writing in a way that is so specific that the only one who might care about the song is you! The songwriting group really helped (and continues to help me) write songs that carry the kind of emotional tone and lyrics that make just about anybody say, 'Yeah, I get it!'"

After years of fronting jam bands and more recently as a member of country-rock band, Black Rock County (www.blackrockcounty.com), Nancy's primary purpose became to make people *move*. All that life and energy came together in her solo debut album "Life Jacket" named because of the many meanings the term "life jacket" can take on. As Nancy puts it, "A life jacket is a thing that keeps you up. I like up! As well, whether you are wearing a business jacket or a red leather jacket like Dylan says, 'You've got to serve somebody.' Right now, I am just letting the music take me, interested to find out where I will end up as a result of it."

What emerged was a set of upbeat, open, direct and honest songs. The first cut, "You Keep My Feet on the Ground" speaks to Nancy's way of being in the world..."out there...until you're big, bang kiss and supernova bliss, caught me...off guard." In "So Perfect for Me" Nancy teams up with cowriter, husband and long-time collaborator, bassist George Salamacha in the story of a couple that plays a game of 'truth or dare.'"

Midway through Life Jacket, Nancy is joined by Pittsburgh-based indie singer Joy Ike as the two soul-songstresses sing you through the passing of a loved one in the pop-rock infused country anthem "Every Little Thing Needs Love". Inspired by a line spoken by the character May in the movie The Secret Life of Bees that...every little thing, especially a butterfly with a broken wing, needs love. The anthem is followed by the powerful "Jack Boot Gun", the rocking country accounting of a bar brawl that erupted at a recent family wake where Nancy was literally pickup and thrown into a wall by a "neighbor dude with an attitude". "Everything in 'Jack Boot Gun' is true, except for the gun!" Nancy says. "At the time it was completely traumatic. Later it was easy to find the emotion to write that song."

The Weepies-like "Dance" and "My Heart's at the Wheel" dreamscape describing a tug of war between head and heart, further define Nancy's range as a songwriter. Finishing out the CD, Nancy is joined by cowriters George Salamacha and fellow NSAI coordinator the often-published Ron "Hookstown" Brown, who brings his country sensibilities to the infectious "Diddlyquat", about a girl that gets stood up and doesn't take it lying down..."I put you first on my drop dead list and threw the flowers away!"

For Nancy Deckant, Life Jacket is the right album at the right moment. With this set of songs, she's made it full circle...music blaring out the windows...only now it's her own music.

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