

KYLE LARDNER
Ready To
'Sail'
To Stardom

By Syl Nathan

She's easily as beautiful as Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, or Joss Stone – and she may have more pure talent than all three of those pop stars combined. Nassau County native Kyle Lardner will soon release *Sail Among The Stars*, and given the quality of this shockingly fine new pop album, she'll be doing exactly that before long. In an area rife with loud rock bands that seemingly are stuck in a time warp, Lardner's fresh singer-songwriter style is just what the region needs.

Only 20, the stunningly sexy Lardner is a gifted, classically trained pianist and fine vocalist, and despite her scant years is the kind of fully developed songwriter that only comes along a few times in a generation. If that sounds like hype, take a listen to songs such as "Moral Amnesia" or "Costa Rica" on her nationally distributed debut on the Little Dizzy Records label (produced by Alan Scott Plotkin of West Hempstead's Virgo Studios, available nationally on September 25 and available now at CDBaby.com). Lardner's thoughtful, often romantic lyrics merge with her natural pop sensibilities to create a pleasing and entertaining aural mix. Add her natural charisma and movie star looks to the package, and Lardner is likely to be one of the most talked-about artists in the region during the next few years.

Indeed, things are happening fast for Lardner, who at press time was humbled by all the attention she's been garnering of late. Already known as an accomplished athlete – she played women's basketball at the University of New Mexico – she's now ready to take on the music world with the same drive she brought to her sports career. The new album is truly a labor of love, financed by Lardner and her family but one that certainly sounds like a major label pop/rock release from the word go.

"The single 'The Blanket Song' is a very important song on the album," said Lardner, whose songwriting acumen may partly be because she comes from a lineage of writers and journalists, including the legendary sports journalist Ring Lardner. "The song is about summer love and I feel it really captures the innocence of the relationship I was in at the time. I wrote it based on my own experience of falling in love." The tune recently ranked in the Top 10 on the FMQB Adult Contemporary chart.

"Another favorite song on my album is 'Neverland.' I think that song will forever mean the most to me, because not only does it have a great message about staying young forever, it also happens to be the first song I ever wrote."

Lardner is a determined woman, so much so that she speaks of her craft with a shockingly mature vision of not only her own music but of the music business in general.

"The reason I decided to make this record was because I always looked at the piano as an escape and passionate hobby," Lardner said. "However, I started creating and writing so many songs that I realized that either I had to record these songs and make a body of work, or lose them forever. Making this album has opened many doors. I've had an incredible year, especially since being signed to my first label, Little Dizzy Records. Working with them has been a dream come true. I just shot my music video for 'The Blanket Song,' my album is now on iTunes, and I am about to start playing in venues all over Manhattan."

With her talent and determination, this may be the first we're hearing of Lardner, but it surely is just the beginning of what promises to be a remarkable career. For more on Kyle Lardner, log on to both her websites, myspace.com/kylelardnertunes and kylemusic.biz.

Long Beach Jazz Fest:
FIVE YEARS ON

The popular Long Beach Jazz Festival will return for the fifth consecutive year, as always featuring an array of area musicians performing blues, jazz, and R&B. This year's

event, presented by the Long Beach Public Library, will feature more than two-dozen sets of music in various locations throughout a four-day period, from Thursday, September 6 through Sunday, September 9. For complete information, log on to longbeachjazzfest.com.



Chieli Minucci

Special attractions for this year's Long Beach Jazz Festival include Rachel Z's Department Of Good And Evil, a staple in the New York City jazz scene, as well as such area stalwarts as Paula Atherton, Michael Barnett, Steve Adelson, Chieli Minucci, Dean Brown, and Kerry Kearney. A guitar raffle sponsored by Michael's Music of Freeport will also be part of the proceedings.

This year's schedule, at press time, is as follows:

**All acts (unless specified) will perform at:
The Long Beach Public Library
111 West Park Avenue,
Long Beach
(516) 432-7201**

Thursday, September 6
5:30 pm: Children's set: Underdogs Of The Orchestra
7 pm: Ben Lacy
8 pm: Bryan Carrott Group

9 pm: The Matt Wilson Group, Trio M, featuring Matt Wilson, Mark Dresser and Myra Melford

Friday, September 7

7 pm: Ben Lacy
8:30 pm: Chieli Minucci Trio
9:30 pm (at **Sugo Café, 62 West Park Avenue**): Steve Adelson Stick-Tet Duo

Saturday, September 8

Noon: Michael Barnett Group
12:40 pm: Dave Lobenstein/Dave Lalama Trio
1:30 pm: HarpBeat featuring Nydia Liberty Mata
2:30 pm: Steve Adelson's Stick-Tet with guests Rachel Z and Dean Brown with Bryan Carrott, Nydia "Liberty" Mata and David Langlois
3:45 pm: Rachel Z's Department Of Good And

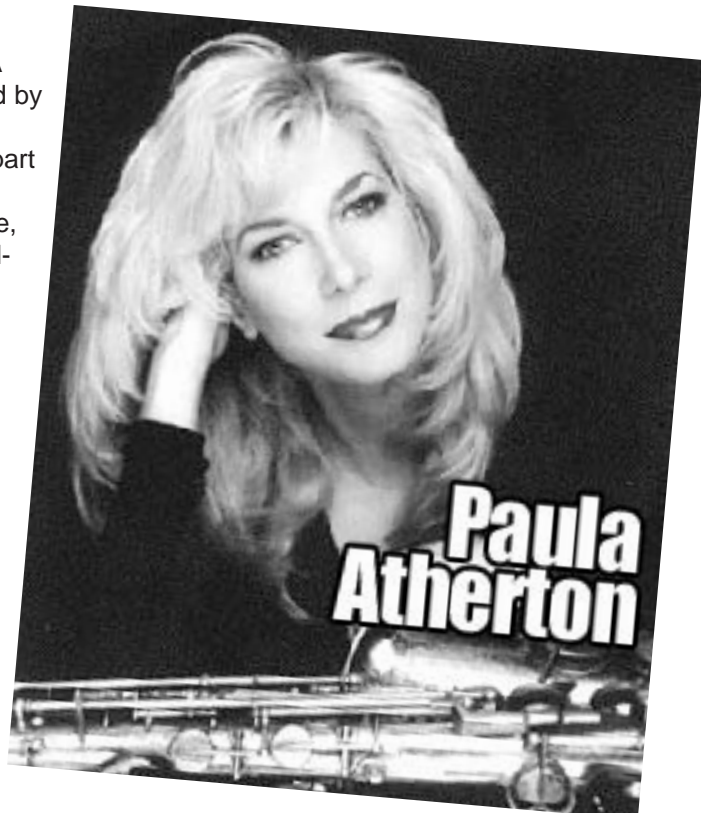
Evil

4:15 pm: LBJF All Stars
5:00 pm: Dean Brown Band
7:15 pm (at **Long Beach Historical Society, 226 West Penn Street**): LBJF All Stars
10 pm (at **Nick Diangelo's Italian Bistro, 152 West Park Avenue**): TBA
10:15 pm (at **Corbin And Reynolds, 20 West Park Avenue**): Stick-Tet & Guests

Sunday, September 9

Noon: Long Beach High School Jazz Band
12:30 pm: Paula Atherton & Interplay
1:30 pm: Enrico Granefei
2:15 pm: Kerry Kearney Band
3:15 pm: Marc Sherman Quartet
4 pm: Ben Lacy & Friends
5 pm: Primo
7:30 pm (at **Corbin And Reynolds, 20 West Park Avenue**): Ben Lacy & Friends

Events held at the Long Beach Public Library will be limited to 200 people. Schedule subject to change.



Paula Atherton