

## Undine Shorey article

A performing artist since she was four years old, Undine Shorey is an accomplished musician, singer, songwriter, and screenwriter who moved to Bradenton when she was one year old from London, her birth city. Performing at local cafés, restaurants, hotels, and private parties, Undine is in demand for the amazing way she connects with her audience in a performance or playing background music. In October she released her first CD titled *Quality of Life* to a packed audience at Connect Bradenton's office on which she performs four original songs and Amazing Grace.

"At ten years old, I played violin in my middle school orchestra. I had no plans to continue violin as the guitar is my instrument of choice but as I practiced, I realized that I was meant to play violin. I played all four years in the Manatee High School orchestra and was concert mistress in my senior year. I then played in the State College of Florida orchestra for two years before moving to the University of Tampa where I received a Bachelor of Art's degree in writing," Undine says. "I had the opportunity to play for a new pastor who had an electric violin that no one could play so, being intrigued by an electrifying instrument that was also cool looking, I began playing the instrument in churches. At that time I played classical, gospel, and jammed with rock-a-billy bands."

At 25 years old someone told her that the window of opportunity is wide but will become narrower. Undine was working a corporate job with a desire to work fulltime in music so she talked to her mother about living with her for six months. She says leaving her corporate job was risky and scary as she had few music-related contacts in Bradenton and Sarasota, but she didn't want the window to close without making an effort to realize her passion. Early on she met flamenco guitarist David Munoz on Craig's list and they became the duo A Deeper Shade of Soul playing Latin, jazz, rumba, R&B, Bosa Nova, and flamenco.

Johnette Isham, Executive Director of Realize Bradenton, says, "Undine Shorey is an impressive talent, responsive professional, and caring individual who has jumped in with both feet when it comes to contributing to her city. Realize Bradenton has hired her as a musician at our Bradenton Farmers' Market, a guest musician at the Bradenton Blues Festival, a volunteer at events, freelance writer, and a Millennial who created an engaging playspace for people of all ages to experience the arts--particularly music. I attended her album release party for *Quality of Life* in October. The lobby of Connect Bradenton was full of people of all ages, races, neighborhoods, and life experiences--all connecting and cheering on this amazing accomplishment of someone we love and support. Undine lives, works, and plays downtown and Bradenton. She pours her whole self into what she does--including making Bradenton an amazing place to live and we are fortunate to have her here!"

The CD took over one year to release with the recording process beginning in early 2018 in Orlando and lasting until the mixing and mastering process in August 2019. She says the songs stretched herself as a musician and singer. The title of the CD *Quality of Life* came from the need to recognize what matters most to us. In Undine's case, she sings of faith, quality friendships, family, relationships, loss of friendships, and heartbreaks. As she gets older, she focuses her priorities on what she deems most important.

Undine's musical influences are Lianne La Havas, Corrine Bailey Rae, John Mayer, and Marc Broussard whose genres are similar but also different. All are singers, songwriters, in tune with musical styles, and great musicians. She honed her style listening to these artists and building connections with other singers, songwriters, and instrumentalists. She says, "A music career life is not easy, even stressful. It is important to have the total package. Talent can take you so far, but the whole package means caring about people, listening to people, and performing songs that remind people of their own lives. People don't communicate, don't pay, cancel, and outdoor performances sometimes are challenging. People see me playing for a couple hours and think I just show up and play. What they don't see is my preparation, packing my equipment, loading it into the car, driving sometimes 25 miles, unloading the car, and setting up the equipment, performing, tearing down the equipment, driving home, and unpacking. Communication is also so important. I follow up on phone calls in less than 12 hours because usually it is someone who had a good experience with me and want to hire me again. We do a disservice to artists who sometimes undersell themselves. I am a unique musician and deliver what I say I will."

About her adopted home of Bradenton, Undine says it molded her into what she is today--determined, faithful, relentless, and an accomplished musician, singer, and songwriter. Defining herself as self-motivated and self-inspired, she possesses the drive and willpower to be her own visionary. Her passion is the arts—art, music, theatre, musicians, artists, muralists. Someday she sees herself in a metropolis with more choices especially in the arts and

theatre. Undine works four hours a day as the brand ambassador for Connect Bradenton, a co-working facility in downtown Bradenton, and is a freelance writer for Bradenton Times, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, and Realize Bradenton.

Undine's London-born mother, who works at SOLVE, is an inspiration and supporter as she raised four children as a single parent. Undine describes her as strong, confident, a pedal-to-the-metal type of person who bought her own home as a single mother. Her father, a CNA, is from Barbados who had family working at Tropicana so the family moved to Bradenton. Her sister Samantha, and brothers Christopher and Sylvester live in Bradenton. Her generation of cousins and her brother (into rap/beats) and an uncle in London are in music. When she has down time, she is a screenwriter. Her work "Citizen." based on helping her father study for his citizenship test, placed in the top 15 of over 2,000 submissions to the AT&T Filmmaker Mentorship Program competition with Emmy® Award Winner Lena Waithe as lead program mentor.

Undine's passion and vision for her music is summed up in her words: If you have a goal, just see it all the way through. Always finish what you begin. Do what you love and want to do.

Article by Carol Darling