

TAMMY COCHRAN
by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"Our Brown County" magazine
Nashville, IN
© 2003

With her long, blonde hair, the voice of an angel, and a kind, caring nature to match - it is easy to see why "Angels In Waiting" singer, Tammy Cochran, is one of Nashville's favorite new female vocalists.

Cochran, who co-wrote "Angels In Waiting" with songwriters Jim McBride and Stewart Harris, has received numerous industry nominations and awards for the emotional song about the loss of her two older brothers to the incurable lung disease of cystic fibrosis – Shawn, in '80 at age 14, and Alan, in '91 at age 23.

So far, Cochran has received over 28,000 inspirational e-mails from listeners affected by the song's exquisite message.



"My label was concerned that I wouldn't like the idea of releasing "Angels In Waiting" as a single," Cochran says. "I told them that if it is done properly, it could bring a lot of awareness to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and perhaps help a lot of people in the process. But I wanted my parents approval first. Mom said it best when she stated, 'This will be a great tribute to your brothers.' "

The Austinberg, Ohio native began her singing career as a teenager by performing at county festivals and clubs with her band, "TC Country."

"I pretty much played the 'animal clubs,'" Cochran says. "The Elks, The Moose, The Eagles. My band and I played weddings and fairs and made fifty or sixty dollars each a night. Which was pretty good when most of my friends were working at McDonald's." Cochran moved to Nashville in '91 with her father, Delmar, a retired heavy equipment operator, and mother, Mabel, a retired private investigator who now sells real estate.

"When we first came here, we didn't do much for the first year-and-a-half," Cochran says. "We kind of read books, got to know what the whole deal was about, 'cause there's a lot more to having a record deal than singing. There's a lot of other stuff involved, and so we took it really, really slow."

Cochran worked a series of low-paying retail, fast food and telemarketing jobs in conjunction to playing open-mike nights in various Nashville venues. She finally landed a staff songwriter position with Warner-Chappell music publishing, began shopping her demos on the side and eventually received a major label recording contract in '98.

"I can say things in a song to someone that I can't look them in the face and say," Cochran says. "It definitely is a therapy for me, and it's made me get in touch with my feelings a lot more. I was always the clown, and the one who was always havin' fun and laughin', but when it came to the serious things, I was like, 'If you don't think about 'em, maybe they'll go away.' So songwriting made me grow up a little."

Cochran's self-titled '01 debut album and '02 sophomore project "Life Happened," has earned the vocalist numerous hit singles, "If You Can," "So What," "Angels In Waiting," "I Cry," and "Life Happened."

"I think that music should be comforting, healing and also very real," Cochran says. "I want people, when they hear a song, to think to themselves, 'That is exactly what I was feeling when I was going through this,' or 'This is how I am feeling now after going through that.' I want my music to be relatable."

Current endeavors for the soft-spoken and humorous songstress include touring and promoting her current single, "Love Won't Let Me."

"'Love Won't Let Me' is a song about the emotional struggle between your head and heart when you get out of a relationship and somebody new comes along," Cochran says. "Your mind says, 'Do not do this. Don't take a chance on somebody new, you're just going to end up with more heartbreak.' But your heart is telling you, 'This could be different. This could be the one.' It's a real struggle to decide what you're going to do."