

BRAD COTTER

Nashville Star—Season Two—Winner
by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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Good things do happen to those who wait -- just ask '04 Nashville Star winner, Brad Cotter.

"My July-released debut album, Patient Man, was a long time coming," Cotter said. "The pun was intended with the title. All of a sudden I'm the Nashville Star, but I've been making a living making music for over a decade. It's hard to make a living doing what you love for that length of time."

Cotter will perform at Nashville North USA on Saturday.

Patience hasn't always been a virtue for the 34-year-old singer-songwriter from Auburn, Alabama.

"I guess I'm more of a stubborn man than a patient one," Cotter said. "I can't stand for someone to tell me no. God blessed me with a talent at an early age. I felt that if I was just faithful and pursuant to what He had blessed me with, then He also would see a way for me to make ends meet. I never did miss a meal or lacked adequate shelter, so He provided."

Cotter, the son of a Baptist minister, was singing before he could walk. A child Gospel star, Cotter released five albums and scored several Top 25 hits between the ages of 11 and 17.

"I think the fact that my dad is a preacher and I grew up singing in church has always made me want to sing songs that touch people," Cotter said. "Music is not only my life, it's my soulmate. I love to laugh and experience new things, and I feel that life is way too short to take it too seriously."

Learning to play piano, guitar, drums, and bass, Cotter was also musically influenced by Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye, Percy Sledge, Eric Clapton, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Merle Haggard..



In his early twenties, Cotter performed with the frat party country rock band, Red NekkEd, and the "straight ahead" country band, Silverado.

Moving to Nashville in '93, Cotter spent the next ten years working as a freelance songwriter and demo singer. Trying to land a record deal, Cotter was turned down by every label in Nashville at least four times. Discouraged, Cotter was ready to call it quits last year and pursue songwriting full-time. But before he did, Cotter auditioned and became one of twelve contestants chosen to compete live on the second season of USA Network's talent show, The Nashville Star.

Cotter received a Sony recording contract when millions of American viewers voted him the new Nashville Star.

"Patient Man" has produced three singles, "I Meant To," "Can't Tell Me Nothin'," and "I Miss Me."

"I've never had my songs heard by the masses like that before," Cotter said. "It's just so amazing when I see little kids singing the words to my songs right along with their parents and grandparents at the shows. To have songs mean something to people of all ages is a dream come true. It was well worth the wait just to experience that."