

Passing the torch

Sara Hickman will make her final performance March 18 and daughter, Lili, will release her debut CD

By Jan Sikes

The title of Sara Hickman's webpage reads like this: *Singer, Songwriter, Speaker, Angel*. When I saw that, I couldn't wait to talk with her. Her infectious laughter, excited energy and sweetness captured me right away.

Sara's been playing music since she was seven when she entered and won a poetry contest. Sara recalls, "It was a contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution and I not only wrote a poem, I put it to music and sang it."

Obviously that creative unique presentation got the judges attention.

But, she's announced that she's hanging up her hat and delivering her final performance on March 18 as part of the Poor David's Pub 40th anniversary celebration.

Ironically, on the heels of Sara's last performance, her daughter, Lili, is opening for her mother and releasing a new CD. So it comes full circle, passing the torch, and all on the stage of the historic club.

The history

SARA HAS A SPECIAL CON-

nection with Poor David's Pub and its illustrious owner, David Card.

She explained, "I was still in college at the University of North Texas, and I went to an open mic at Poor David's. I had to go to an open mic so David could see me to decide if he'd let me play there. So, I picked a blue shimmering sweetheart neckline prom dress and blue and white cowboy boots to wear. He called me later and I went over to his club to talk to him. He said he could get me to open for somebody because he thought I was really good and that he paid openers \$25 and I said 'no.'"

David was taken aback by her refusal and she went on to tell him that she was worth at least \$50 by the time she got dressed, drove over from Denton and performed her music.

Sara laughed. "I don't know if he liked that I was that sassy or

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—SARA HICKMAN



She's now singing the Daisy sour cream ad like her mom: Lili Blessing and mother Sara Hickman

what, but he said yes. So, my first paid experience in Dallas, Texas was with David Card."

I mentioned to her that David has that open-mic performance memorialized on his trivia page where he mentions the low-cut blue dress.

"I do know I've found over the years that most male club owners are prone to like a woman looking her finest." We both had to laugh at that.

I had to ask Sara her reason for choosing Poor David's Pub to make her exit into retirement. Was it because it was her first paid nightclub experience and by ending there brings it full circle?

"I think everything that happened to me "big-wise" happened to me while I was living in Dallas, not counting that I played at a private event for the Houston Oilers when I was fourteen. I got paid \$450 to go perform for an hour. My mom took me and she waited in the car while I performed."

Sara Hickman has certainly accomplished a lot in her career including being named The official State Musician of Texas in 2010-2011.

But, back to her connection to Poor David's Pub.

"So anyway, there is something about David that tickles me."

"He always introduces me with an original poem or song. He even introduced me one time with heart boxer shorts on for Valentine's Day. I don't think he does that for anybody else," Sara laughs.

Emotional partnership

SARA SAID SHE ALWAYS HAD a home in Dallas at Poor David's. It seemed that he respected her because she stood up for her beliefs and as she says, "in this industry it is very hard for a woman to do that. It is a man's world."

Another poignant story Sara shared brought her to tears.

"When my dad died, I had a gig at Poor David's the night before his memorial in Houston. I decided that since I make my living performing, I needed to go ahead and do the show. So, that night after the performance, I was in the green room packing up and David asked what was up. I guess he could tell something was off. I mentioned that the next day was my dad's memorial and he asked me how I was getting there. I told him I was going to drive, and he said, 'No, I'm going to drive you.' I told him he didn't have to do that and he said he wanted to. My father's name was David too. I was exhausted the next day when I got in the car and he drove me while I slept. After we got there, we had lunch with members of my family and then he wouldn't allow us to help him in any way. He took a taxi to the airport and flew back to Dallas on his own dime."

Emotion clogged Sara's voice when she continued. "He didn't have to do that. He never asked me for any money. He just quietly did that and... that's family, you know? You just have to honor that person."

I couldn't agree more. What a beautiful story.

Daisy Sour Cream

NO MOTHER COULD BE more proud of her twenty-year-old daughter than Sara is of Lili. "Not only is she spectacularly beautiful, but her music and art is amazing," Sara said. "And," she continues, "here's an interesting thing."

"For eight years, I sang the Daisy sour cream jingle. Lili wrote a song and submitted it to 62 other submissions besides Daisy and she won the account. So now she is singing the Daisy sour cream ad. I don't think that's ever been done with a mother and daughter."

Bringing it to the present, Lili Blessing, is releasing her first CD and performing with Sara at Poor David's Pub on March 18.

Family in every sense of the word brought in a beautiful full circle with a man that Sara lovingly calls "Dad," David Card.

And, if you can make Sara and Lili's performance on the March 18, don't forget to pick up a copy of Lili's new CD, *Lifeline*.

Read my full review of this phenomenal CD, *Lifeline*, from Lili Blessing. Lili's voice is indescribable – fresh, diverse, rich, smooth and unique. She is one to watch.