

LISA MATASSA

Rising superstar and sweetheart Lisa Matassa is putting Long Island, New York on the country music map as she emerges on the music scene once again in an unprecedented comeback story for a forty-something wife and mother of two teenagers. Her journey began singing in her bedroom into her hair brush to the likes of Barbra Streisand, Loretta Lynn and Debbie Boone. With her great-grandmother being an opera singer and her mother a background vocalist in a Doo-Wop group, Matassa was destined to be a powerful performer. After noticing her talent, her parents began taking her to perform in front of live audiences at different clubs and concert halls.

She was introduced to the world under the stage name Lysa Lynn at 19 when she signed to independent record label Emergency Records, which specialized in producing 1980s dance-pop sensations such as recording artist Shannon's dance anthem, "Let the Music Play." She released two singles, 1987's "I've Got The Hots For You" and 1988's "Rock Me Baby," where she received both national and international airplay, reaching Top 10 on the Dance Music Charts and performing alongside artists such as Taylor Dayne, Brenda K. Starr, Judy Tores and TKA. While she had success in the dance-pop genre, she was country at heart and desired a more edgy and soulful sound.

Leaving the music industry behind to settle into her natural born role as a wife and mother on New York's Long Island, she is now prepping for her long awaited, upcoming country debut with the release of her LP *Sunrise Highway* due out digitally December 1, 2011 on It Is What It Is Records/Nine North Records. "I bring a unique perspective to my music now," expresses Lisa. "Not many mothers with teenagers embark on a recording career later in life. There's a lot more country in America outside of Nashville," states Matassa. Having grown up in New York and in South Florida, and having raised a family in Long Island, I've had a lot of cultural and musical influences in addition to traditional country music."

Classically trained by opera coach Flora Dane and influenced by Streisand, Patsy Cline and Elvis, Lisa developed a unique sound of country with a hint of rock. With the new sound she calls, "Long Island Country," she has been compared to Wynonna Judd, Celine Dion and Heart's Ann Wilson. "I love the direction where country music is going," says Lisa. "You will always have classic country but the young artists have really helped people be more receptive of my style and I love being a part of it."

Her EP, an inspired musical compilation of strong, rock-based empowering songs with country undertones, *Me Time* is now currently available through her website and on all major online distributors. Lisa's album was produced by LMA Productions under the direction of Tony Bruno (Rihanna, Enrique Iglesias), Joey Sykes (Meredith Brooks, Third Eye Blind, Don Henley), and songwriting collaborations with legendary country music writer Don Rollins (It's Five O'clock Somewhere).

Much of the album was originally composed and written in Nashville. Studio time was split between Jim “Moose” Brown’s (co-writer of Alan Jackson’s duet with Jimmy Buffet with “It’s Five O’clock Somewhere” and co-producer on Jamey Johnson’s album *That Lonesome Song*) studio in Nashville and the legendary Cove City Sound Studios in Glen Cove, New York where Long Island music legends like Billy Joel, Mariah Carey, Taylor Dayne, as well as musical icons like Jennifer Lopez, Marc Anthony and Celine Dion have also recorded.

She recently recorded the holiday classic “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)” with the Broadway Youth Ensemble for a release this upcoming holiday season.

“I am very fortunate I have stayed with it. Even with the downfalls, I still have that fire inside of me,” says Lisa. “I’ve been blessed with the best support group, which is my family.” The passion and love for music was never absent from her heart and she is reminded of that from one of the world’s most influential women Oprah Winfrey, when she said, “You’ve got to follow your passion. You’ve got to figure out what it is you love--who you really are. And have the courage to do that. I believe that the only courage anybody ever needs is the courage to follow your own dreams.”