

Sweet Nothin's

Brief description:

Sweet Nothin's is a vocal trio consisting of Lisa and Teresa McCarter (The McCarter Twins) and Chip Winter. The McCarters were a sister trio on Warner Bros records from 1987-92. Growing up in the Great Smoky Mountains of east TN they moved to Nashville and after signing with Warner Bros, they had 3 top-10 charted singles on Billboard country charts as well as 4 other charted singles.

After a hiatus from music for 2 decades, the Twins decided it was time to make more music, and in so doing included Lisa's husband Chip. Harmony is all they have ever known, so with a giant step of faith for each of them, they share lead vocal responsibilities leading to a whole new experience in 3 part harmonies.

Our Story...

A few years ago, a friend of ours suggested we record our own CD, just for ourselves, because we love to sing, and to see if we could do it all on our own. Initially, Chip was all for it, but only in the capacity of helping out. Lisa and Teresa said, "NO! We're not going to do this unless you sing with us." Well, we know how that ended up. We started thinking about songs from childhood memories, songs we grew up with, songs that inspired, and influenced our lives. Some, Chip had never heard before much less, knew how they went. As we gathered roughly 20 songs, we started rehearsing them, vocal and harmony arrangements of each song. That was quite interesting due to the fact that we never sang lead! It was quite humorous when we'd blow the pitch pipe for the lead note, all of us automatically jumped to the harmony, hence no one was singing lead! Still funny, and we still do that to this day.

The name, Sweet Nothin's came about one morning when Lisa was humming and singing the Brenda Lee song Sweet Nothing's. We feel the Lord lays songs on our hearts and minds for a reason. And, since we didn't actually have a group name for our trio at that time, we all looked at each other and said "THAT'S IT!" And so it came to be and we feel the name represents us well.

We started sharing some "dashboard video's" on FB of us singing a capella and people really liked it. So, we started the initial recording process at our home with musician friends, their referrals, usually evenings and weekends as time allowed. About 4 songs into the project, we were contacted on FB by a photographer/videographer from East Tennessee about doing a DVD/CD project for the Smoky Mountains.

After a few meetings with him, we put some of our songs on hold, and started on new ones. He wanted songs that could represent the Smoky Mountains, history, scenery, tourism and such. Those would include, bluegrass, gospel, traditional country and folk influences. He left the songs and audio production entirely up to us and he would provide the visual to correspond with each song.

And so begins our new journey.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MEMORIES:

Right away this song came to mind. We found the Mel Street and Earl Thomas Conley version on

YouTube and what a better way to start the CD.

Chip had never heard this one either, so naturally he has lead responsibilities. The Twins had a great vision to do a video for this song (in the works) and that helped with the production and arrangements with the instrumentation. The tag line at the end is where we came up with the title of the CD, Sweet Memories.

DANCE WITH ME:

We had this one chosen before the DVD opportunity came about. Johnny Rodriquez was a big influence in the Twins' early career, even fortunate enough to tour with him in the early 90's. We wanted to keep the arrangement as close to Johnny's version as possible, with Teresa singing lead vocal.

The song also was kind of a metaphor for their music career.

Lyrics like "I know I made mistakes dear..." and "Dance with Me just one more time" somewhat capture the essence of getting back into music.

WHEN THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA:

One morning during the holidays, Chip was preparing breakfast and the Twins came in the kitchen singing this song. He thought, "where did y'all come up with that? We need to record that!" Once again, another song Chip had never heard. The Twins remembered this song from a John Denver and the Muppets cassette. A folky/spiritual song, we thought this might serve well for the DVD, for all the beautiful rivers, creeks and streams that flow through the Smoky Mountains.

NO OTHER FOUNTAIN:

Needing a few gospel songs on the DVD, this one was carried over from our initial recording we had done. We have sang this song for years in church, always a capella, influenced by Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, but when we redid it, the engineer played along with the acoustic guitar as we recorded the "rough track", and we really loved the way it sounded. What you hear on the CD is the "live" recording.

THERE IS A TIME:

Remember the Darlin's on the Andy Griffith show? The videographer for the DVD wanted us to do this one specifically. We're not sure you could get more mountain bluegrass than the Dillard family. This was originally going to be the title track of the DVD. "There is a Time...to visit the Great Smoky Mountains". Kind of a promotional, tourist concept. But then, the wildfires destroyed so much and we had so many friends and family that suffered so much loss, we felt "Smoky Mountain Memories" would be more fitting.

RYE WHISKEY:

We have no idea the connection between whiskey and the mountains....wink, wink.

As we searched for a song to represent the backwoods, hills and moonshine, we came across this song on YouTube as well. But the version that stood out to us the most was the one done in the early 1960's by Stringbean. It was just him and a banjo, and some stanza's we'd never heard before. After recording this with acoustic guitar, banjo and mountain dulcimer, we decided to have only a dulcimer intro and outro and leave the vocals a capella to sound and feel more "mountainy".

THE SIGNS BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD:

We remember our mama, and her brothers and sister singing this old Chuck Wagon Gang song.

Remembering it as a simple, family song, we had our cousin come to the studio to play the autoharp tracks. We also wanted it to sound “old-timey”, so what you'll hear is the cracking and popping of an old vinyl record as if it were recorded live like the old radio show days.

ITS IN EVERY ONE OF US:

Simplicity. This song ends the disc with flowing, melodic guitar, viola, bass and cello. It is another song that came from John Denver and the Muppets. Although he didn't write it, this song really stood out to us and had such a great arrangement, we wanted to end the CD with a positive, simple message, that “it's in every one of us to be” better and to LOVE one another!

Chip, Lisa and Teresa
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