

## Getting Her "Wish"

# Kellie Parr

by Meredith Millen Deal Photography by Mike Force Photography

Kellie Parr is one happy soulful singer; a talented woman weaving her life stories through her lyrics and music.

What type of music does she play? "I really can't pinpoint my genre; so I call it Americana or even Folk Rock." Her musical influences ranging oldest to latest are "Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, the Beatles, Michelle Shocked, Lucinda Williams and Shawn Colvin."

"At first I played in a rather successful college band at Florida State University in 1992 called the "Shatterposts"; we made a couple of Top Ten College Lists. I almost 'made it' in becoming a recording artist in my 20s but I wasn't ready and it could have ended badly. When you're young, you want all that fame and fortune. Now I realize you can follow those dreams in your 30s, and 40s, for it's about connecting—playing in front of people. Nowadays, I have even more of a desire to express myself."

Growing up in Brunswick's Satilla Shores neighborhood, right on the Satilla River, crabbing and fishing were some of Kellie's favorite pastimes, for she has always been in awe of the water and ocean. Kellie and her sister, Jenny, would play on the river and in nearby woods. "I want that type of childhood for my seven year-old son Fisher, and for other generations, too. Protection is the key. So I've been writing songs about my son and about environmental issues." Kellie works with the Satilla River Keepers and the eco-friendly group, the Surfrider Foundation—dedicated to protecting our ocean, waves and beaches.

Kellie has her mom Anne's personality—both light and artsy. "She got me to sing and taught me the bass ukulele. As my mentor, she is who I turn to for bold truth – she always tells it like it is. Mom is the voice of reason. I developed my sense of adventure from my dad, Randy. He understands the "rush" I get by doing something I am passionate about. I'm a scuba instructor and licensed boat captain. He's a licensed boat captain and a pilot, so maybe someday I'll be flying, too!"

"Fisher was born 15 weeks premature, at one pound, twelve ounces (just two handfuls in size); he spent three months in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. So I would write letters to him each day to describe his experience there. I'd journal about it, as it was therapy for me. On my new release, I wrote a song from that time called "Be Strong." Fisher knows I wrote it for him. The lyrics in the bridge are me imagining his future. Memories from quite an intense time; it still chokes me up seven years later."

For Kellie, writing is like breathing. "I love it all—the whole process in writing to develop my three-to-four minute story in each song. I love showing voice inflection— to bring out the emotion. And, I only do cover songs

that I believe in because I want to deliver that story, too." A great example of a cover song Kellie loves to perform is Dolly Parton's "Jolene."

Friend and fellow recording artist, Greg Hester partnered with Kellie to co-produce her new CD release, "Wish." I call it ten songs right from her heart. And Kellie knows that the money will follow. She says "Balance is the key—I am keeping my passion in enlightening others to my music, while I stay grounded, too."

Kellie plays an average of five-to-six solo gigs per month. "People in my audiences say to me, 'you smile all the time!' They tell me it is infectious." Kellie is exhilarated to be doing what she loves. "I play to make myself and others happy—it's all about joy and a celebration of music. I write about overcoming tragedies, to be strong. I touch on difficult topics, but I want people to know not to give up on their dreams. Following your dream is the true path to happiness."



### Up Close:

**Lives:** On St. Simons Island

**Daytime job:** Independent accountant and business consultant

**Energy enlightenment:** "Tennis: that's my sport! Fisher and I play too."

**Collects:** "Guitars and anything with a dolphin on it. I also have 17 years of National Geographics!"

**Like a Dolphin:** Kellie would rather swim than walk. "I love being in the water and can hold my breath for two minutes!"

**Would have loved to sit in to play with:** "John Lennon. First we'd talk and then we'd jam."

**Buy the "Wish" CD:** at Hattie's Books and Beachview Books

**Check out her website:** [www.kellieparr.com](http://www.kellieparr.com)

