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L.I. Spotlight

## Deborah Lombardi Songs For The Ages

It's been a misnomer for the past 30 years in Long Island. The usual perception of this region's music is that it's a scene dominated by cover bands, tribute acts, and rock groups as loud as they are hairy.

Of course, the truth of the matter is that there are as many facets to local music as there are talented performers. Singer and songwriter Deborah Lombardi is breaking through on her own terms, and doing it in the best possible way: She's garnering national notice through the strength and quality of her compositions and performances.

Recently, Lombardi had two of her original compositions – "Ghost Of You" and "My Dog's Life" – performed on the Animal Planet series "Horse Power." Lombardi's strong internet presence through her own website, MySpace.com, and PureVolume.com got the interest flowing in her unique, indefinable music.

"It's very lucky because they found me," said Lombardi, a personable, warm presence in the area music scene. "I always wanted to get my music licensed for TV. I had one song up at PureVolume, and at that time someone from Animal Planet was looking for unsigned music. It all was a good surprise."

The real surprise, however, is the quality and

depth of Lombardi's music. Her first full length CD, *On The Fringe*, recorded in both Floral Park and New York City, is slated for release this spring. The lovely "My Dog's Life" will be included on that disc – it's certainly a tune any dog lover will identify with – as well as other songs such as "Almost Beautiful," "Keep Lookin'," and "At The Bottom." This disc will no doubt be highly anticipated because Lombardi's work gains in popularity almost daily, with fans checking in on MySpace and other sites to hear her unique style. It would be all too easy to compare Lombardi to other female vocalists, but her work shows surprising depth, passion, and self-awareness. The tunes range from Americana to rock to pop effortlessly. It's a voice that she says was something that was a long time in coming.

"When I was in the D.C. area, I started performing at a solo," Deborah recalled. "I've been writing songs since I was a kid. But I didn't really find my vocal and song-writing style until the last three or four years. There are a lot of singer/songwriters around here, and there's all kinds of music. There are open mics where people can go to develop their skills."

Lombardi's skills seem to be at their best these days. A fine musician who can perform on either piano or guitar, VH1's Song of the Year Contest awarded her the Runner Up award for their December 2005 contest, and four of her songs received Honorable Mention in the 11th annual *Billboard* Songwriting Contest. Deborah has also made her mark on the New York music scene with TV and radio appearances and strong airplay. Classically trained at the University of Miami

School of Music, her performing experience has ranged from musical theatre to fronting rock bands. Today, however, Lombardi seems to have found her niche – and her recent national success should only be the beginning of her long musical journey.

"As far as the future goes, I would love to get my music out there nationally," Lombardi said. "I'd love to tour regionally as well. As for this area, sure



there are a lot of rock bands, but there are as many singer/songwriters as there are rock bands, but they don't get the publicity they deserve." If musicians as talented as Lombardi continue to excel, that is a fact that will change very soon.

For more on Deborah Lombardi, log on to her website at [deborahlombardi.com](http://deborahlombardi.com), [myspace.com/deborahlombardi](http://myspace.com/deborahlombardi), or her area at [PureVolume.com](http://PureVolume.com). She will be performing at the Jones Beach Boardwalk Band Shell throughout the summer, so check her website for updates and performance times.