

Kim Cameron will perform with her band Side FX at Live Bar April 9

By **Kristin Day**, mixer, Friday, April 1, 2011

Just three years ago, indie-pop singer-songwriter Kim Cameron began playing music.

Since then, she and her band Side FX have made their way onto the national charts, as their single "Paradise," reached No. 36 on the Adult Contemporary Chart (by press time). An older single, "A Dance," hit No. 118 on the Top 40 chart. Following a show at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., Side FX will be performing April 9 at Live Bar, 2120 E. Fire Tower Road, with fellow band 8 Track. Cameron had been working in business when a family crisis left her re-evaluating her career choice. As she watched a young family member fight for his life, she realized she should be pursuing her first love: music.

In addition to her songs, Cameron has created music videos and even a pilot reality-TV show. She's also performed gratis for soldiers and veterans at places such as Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Cameron, who is working on Side FX's third album, "The Blond Side," took some time to answer a few questions from mixer, in anticipation of her April performance:

Did you ever think you would be on the charts three years after starting your music career? *Never in a 1,000 years did I think I would be so lucky. To have two records charting on AC and Top 40 is a dream come true. Words can not describe how blessed I feel right now. The life of a musician is a hard one and with all of the competition, it is difficult to be heard. You know, our biggest competition is not fellow musicians, but it is all the distractions that life brings to our doorsteps; kids, work, school, bills, chores, etc. While most of us try to bring music into our lives as an escape, we still have other priorities that typically trump our desires.*



How did you feel when you found out you were on the Top 40 and adult contemporary charts? *I started writing original music as an outlet for so many emotions I had at the time. As I channeled that energy, I realized that songwriting was not something I wanted to do, but had to do. There are so many people with such great stories that I felt like part of what I was supposed to do with my life, was tell their stories through song. What is so fantastic about charting is those stories can be heard across the country.*

Is having a band and a solo project overwhelming at times, or is it like having the best of both worlds? *I love being a part of a band. My bandmates are the best, most creative people in the world and they are funny. I am not sure I could ever do a total solo career. I believe people are so much better with other people. They behave better, write better, sound better. Whether you know it or not, being around a team that is focusing on the same goals, produces some pretty powerful results. World class companies strive to build teams like that, I am lucky to already be a part of one.*

What's the biggest difference between the songs you write for the band and the ones you keep for yourself? *Wow, super hard question! The songs I write for myself are extremely personal and never seem to leave my room. There have been two exceptions to that rule — so far — but the band had to convince me to release them. Those were interesting discussions. The songs I write for Side FX, however, are meant to be shared. I do have a different mindset when it comes to writing for the band. Not necessarily less personal, because all the songs are personal to me, but they are typically songs about other people.*

Some music writers say the time is coming for indie bands to be recognized. How do you feel about that? *Bring it on! I have nothing against the major labels, but I think they made themselves out as such an elite club that it is easy for people to relate to the underdog. I know I am the first one to always cheer on the one who is least likely to succeed. Music takes people to places you cannot go with touch, smell or any of the other senses. Why should the major labels dictate what music should be heard? I frequently support local original acts whenever I am able by going to their shows and buying their music, even tipping in their jar. I encourage new music, new artists, and the courage it takes to put it out there.*

Who are some of your favorite artists? *The list is long and changes, but right now I am stuck on Howie Day, Colbie and Eminem. I have classic favorites that I always listen to like Carly Simon, James Taylor, Seal, Kylie Minogue and Bob Marley. My favorite concerts to watch, however, are Dave Matthews, Cher and Matchbox. Great live shows not to be missed.*

Check out Side FX at www.sidefxband.net and Cameron's solo site at <http://kimcameronmusic.com>.