

## Singer

I've been singing since the age of nine, starting in the junior choir of the church my family attended. I've participated in several choirs since then and was part of a community chorale in the Tampa Bay area of Florida as an adult. I also sang in several musicals during my formative years in Hawthorne, NJ. I continue to sing at every opportunity and am available for weddings, holiday celebrations, and special events. Soon, I'll be available for children's entertainment, too..

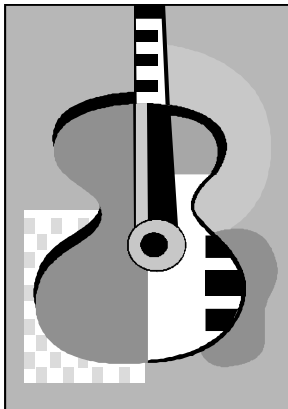
## Guitarist

Scoliosis halted any dancing aspirations at the age of 10, so my parents encouraged me to pick up the guitar. I've been playing ever since!

After studying on and off through my teenage years, I became an enthusiastic hobbyist after marrying and starting a family.

Sensing the desire to become a "real musician," my husband encouraged me to continue my education. I found a mentor in Mark Dye, a 1976 University of South Florida graduate and Merit Award winner in composition. He taught me to play with the "big boys" by playing like the big boys.

I worked with Mark for more than 15 years. He continues to be an inspiration.



## Songwriter

My initial desire in returning to studying music was to be able to play cover tunes at various venues around the Tampa Bay area. I dabbled in songwriting as a teen, but lacked the guidance needed to be able to turn my writing into something coherent.

Mark encouraged me to use songwriting as a tool to not only learn the craft, but to improve my guitar skills. Through his mentoring, I've been able to produce award-winning compositions and increase my skills as a guitarist.

I like to mix things up in the melody blender and see what flavor emerges, throwing in elements of blues, rock, jazz, and folk. I write about social issues, the human condition, and on occasion, love. Dynamics, rhythm, and my unique and clear voice combine to tell the story.

Some of my songs have been recognized for their outstanding quality. For more information, please go to my web site: <http://donnaklein.com>.

## Keyboard/Piano

The guitar is a fine tool to use for songwriting, but the piano is far better. Once I got a handle on what I was doing with songwriting and playing the guitar, I asked Mark to teach me how to play the piano as a composition tool.

Although I doubt I'll ever be a concert pianist, I was able to reach a near-virtuoso level of playing and understanding of the instrument. I continue to use it to this day as an avenue for songwriting.

## Performer

I've been appearing at festivals since 1992, including Suwannee Springfest, Girls Rock, and ten years at the Will McLean Festival, which is the premier festival for Florida Songwriters.

I've also appeared at many concert series, specializing in house concerts where intimate performances are given for music connoisseurs.



After serving as the founding president of the Women Musicians' Alliance, I created, produced, and hosted a quarterly concert series at the Catherine Hickman Theater in Gulfport, Florida called "Keeping Company... with Donna Klein." This series ran from 2002 through 2005 and featured performing songwriters from around Florida and other parts of the USA in an interactive round robin that encouraged audience participation.

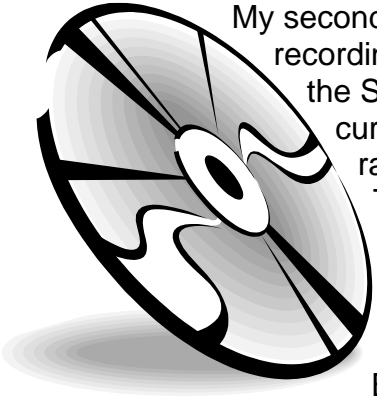
Being comfortable on stage goes back to the seventh grade when I started acting and singing in school musicals and plays including, "Oliver!," "The Music Man," "Mame," and "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." It also helps to have a good sense of humor!

## Recording Artist

Shortly after I started performing original music in public, it was time to start saving some of my songs for posterity.

The first recording was a self-titled three-song EP released in 1992. The second recording was an EP of Florida songs called "Florida Live," released in 1995.

My first full-length, full production recording, "New York City" was released in December, 1997. It received airplay around the world on community and college radio stations.



My second full-length recording, "Sail Beyond the Sunset" is currently in pre-radio release. This recording contains 12 original songs and one "cover" of a David Bowie tune, used

in a songwriting contest sponsored by his web site. Although the lyrics did not win, fans encouraged me to record my version. It was posted to the David Bowie web site, where it won song of the week.

The twelve original tunes will be released simultaneously in an acoustic, unplugged format, suitable for airplay on folk and acoustic programs.

My most recent recording is a compilation of twelve holiday songs called "Christmas Traditions." It was in limited release during the 2005 holiday season, and will be fully released in 2006.

## Musical Mentor

At the encouragement of my mentor, I started teaching female singers and a few guitarists in 2002. Soon, I expanded to include keyboard/piano, songwriting, and theory. I've also had success working with male singers, and have helped people prepare for performances and auditions.

I'm currently offering individual and group instruction in my home studio, located near the Ocqueoc Falls on M 68. Rates are \$15 per half-hour session. Lessons are offered at all levels, with me specializing in beginners of all ages. A limited number of scholarships are available.

To celebrate the Great American Teach-In, I developed an informance program about songwriting as a career or hobby for the Pinellas County Center for the Arts. I participated from 1995 through 2004, and look forward to continuing this program in 2006 in my "new" local community.

I also taught singing and songwriting from 1998 through 2004 at the Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp, held each October in St. Petersburg, Florida.

A guitar orchestra where people of various ages and abilities can make music together is currently in the planning stages.

Donna Klein

Performing Songwriter and More!

**"On the Curve"**

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