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Local music

**Christy Jefferson hopes third times the charm for new CD**

The local singer/songwriter's latest effort took three years to finish, thanks o that *no* thanks to a few glitches along the way.

**By Jim Speese**

**Reading Eagle Correspondent**

Local singer/songwriter Christy Jefferson, who appears Friday night at Canal Street Pub and Restaurant with Jolene, has just released her newest CD, "When Kisses Take Prisoners," which seemingly follows up last year's "Live in Philly" CD. But actually, the new CD has been three years in the making. It's all very confusing, but does make a kind of sense.

"Some of these songs people were asking to take home with them over three years ago," Jefferson noted. "And that's actually when I started recording them."

Indeed, Jefferson had recorded many of the tunes at least twice before this last time.

"The first time was just the bare bones recording at home, to kind of get the ideas down, explained.

She'd record the track with a guitar or piano, depending on which instrument she'd write add the other instrument, as well as keyboard strings and extras.

That recording she took to a friend who had a recording studio and re-recorded all the s

In the midst of all this, the songs evolved.

"I was taking intense voice lessons," she said, "and I was really pushed to explore my vc songs changed a lot because of that. I remember thinking, 'Thank God I'm doing it again because the songs had changed so much for the better (in the interim)."

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She added, "That recording was supposed to be a final draft."

But fate, in the form of failing equipment, intervened.

A mechanical failure meant the loss of the drum tracks and, unable to re-create them, Jefferson was left at square one.

Finally, she entered Sonic Alliance studio in East Stroudsburg, completing the new album in December.

And she was determined to work in all the things she'd learned over the past three years

"It's a wonderful studio," she explained, "and while I was there I wanted to take advantage

She eschewed the use of a synthesizer for the string sounds, for instance.

"I wanted the authentic sound of the instruments, including the instrument noise, like the cello leaving the strings," she explained. "I decided not to use synthesizers."

So, in addition to the normal guitar, piano, bass and drums, "When Kisses Take Prisoners" features cellos, violins, mandolins and accordions, among other instruments.

She also allowed the musicians plenty of space in which to work.

"I wanted the musicians to have a fulfilling experience," she said, "so there was freedom to put their special touches on it. And that added that great energy that creative musicians

With release of the CD, Jefferson looks forward to moving onward and upward in the music industry. She's already been allotted a coveted spot in this summer's Bethlehem Musikfest where she's got three ways to approach her gigs: She does solo shows, of course, and recently begun doing full band shows (Christy Jefferson and the Core Four), and she shares shows with Jolene.

"I guess I've got a lot of options, but I want to play with the band as much as possible," she said.

The show on Friday night is a shared show with Jolene, a gig she loves to do. The two shows are on the same night, with each playing her own songs, backed by the other.

"One of my favorite things about playing with Jolene," she explained, "is that I get to be the lead singer for half the time."

For more information on Christy Jefferson and her new album, check out her Web site at [www.christyjefferson.com](http://www.christyjefferson.com)

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