

Origins



LISA LARUE

LISA LARUE Biography

She began playing keyboards as a small child, her grandmother noticing she was playing *These Boots are Made for Walkin'* the Nancy Sinatra hit, on her toy Magnus Chord organ. Later sought out by shopping malls and department stores as a young girl, she started writing her own songs and designing her own 'album covers.' This led and inspired her for her future careers, which also include graphic design.

Not only a fan of progressive music such as Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Yes, Genesis, and others, but the hometown boys, Kansas, played a big part in her influential years, as well.

Before setting out for a record contract, she collaborated with Gilli Smyth of *Gong* on a self-released 'tape' titled *Dreamscapes*. *Dreamscapes* was released by the U.S.-arm of Voiceprint, and soon after, she began label shopping for a longer-lasting deal.

A composer and keyboardist, LaRue became the first female artist signed to the Sound of American Records label (SOAR), Natural Visions sublabel. Her debut release was titled *Beloved Tribal Women*, which received accolades for being a first in combining art with music. The CD booklet featured 14 paintings by the most awarded female Native American artist in the world, Joan Hill. The idea was, 'a picture paints a thousand words,' so naturally, the music was instrumental, letting the art inspire the listener. Since she has released *Children's Songs in the Cherokee Language*, *That Ol' Sofkee Spoon*, *Ama*, *Transformation 2012*, *World Class* (released as Lisa LaRue Project 2K9), *Fast and Blue* and *Sussuration* with 2KX, and *Sonic Landscapes* with Federico Fantacone.

World Class became known as one of the pioneer prog projects recorded long distance via internet-transfer. The title was inspired by the fact that the participants in the project were located all around the world, including Belgium and the UK. The project, known as *Lisa LaRue Project 2K9*, became the basis for a permanent band, *Lisa LaRue 2KX* which included extensive work with co-producer, vocalist and guest bassist John Payne (*Asia* featuring John Payne, *GPS*, *Dukes of the Orient*), and guest appearances by *Saga* vocalist Michael Sadler.

Lisa has also appeared on recordings by others, including Olver Wakeman Band guitarist David Mark Peach (*Strange Ang3ls*), Head Transfer Process (*Stargazer*), Esquire with Nikki Squire (*Stay Low*), and with artists such as Don Schiff, Ryo Okumoto, Oliver Wakeman, Steve Gresswell, Quester and Beyond the Labyrinth.

LaRue was nominated for a Hollywood Music Award in 2008, and was also awarded the Oklahoma Music Awards "Native American Artist of the Year." in 2008. Her band 2KX was nominated as Instrumental Band of the Year in 2011 by the Los Angeles Music Awards.

She is married to singer/songwriter/producer, audio book director and editor and engineer John Baker, who is the lead vocalist and guitarist for LA-based progressive rock band Forever Twelve, and formerly with The Little Girls, Christian Love (The Beach Boys), Harvey Sid Fisher and Mars Hollow. Her son, Spencer is also a musician and producer.



Lisa LaRue & John Baker
2017, photo by Gary Box

Disc One

Kituwa (LaRue/Adams) Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

Mixed by Lisa LaRue, Mastered by Devgel Studios. From the album "World Class," Lisa LaRue Project 2K9, 2009

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • Steve Adams – guitars • John Payne – bass • Merrill Hale – drums

Hurtful Words (LaRue) Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

Single release, 2010. Mixed by Lisa LaRue, Mastered by Devgel Studios

Lisa LaRue – keyboards

In Camera (LaRue)

Produced and mixed by Lisa LaRue. Mastered by Devgel Studios. From the album "World Class,"

Lisa LaRue Project 2K9, 2009

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • Steve Adams – guitars • Svetlan Raket – drums

Beautiful Illusion (LaRue/Adams) (Lyrics by Lisa LaRue) Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP).

Mixed by Lisa LaRue, Mastered by Devgel Studios. From the album

"World Class," Lisa LaRue Project 2K9, 2009

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • John Payne – vocals • Steve Adams – guitars • Svetlan Raket – drums

256 Leagues Above New Orleans (LaRue/Timothy) Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

From the album "That Ol' Sofkee Spoon," Lisa LaRue and John Timothy, 2002

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • John "Yafke" Timothy – Native American flute

Sea of Unity (LaRue)

Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

From the album "Transformation 2012," Lisa LaRue, 2009

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, programming Bill Bruford Studio Profiles Drum Loops

Spoken Word "Peter" and "An"

Lament of the Cherokee/Ruins of Home (Lisa LaRue and an adaptation of a poem by John Howard Payne)

Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP). From the album "Fast and Blue," Lisa LaRue 2KX, 2011

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • Steve Adams guitars and bass • Michael Alvarez cello • Merrill Hale - drums

John Payne - narration

Golden Birds Wrapped Within (LaRue) Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

Written for the Wylliams/Henry Danse Theater production, "Voices of the Shuka," 1995.

Released as the album "Ama," Lisa LaRue, 2008

Lisa LaRue – keyboards

Recurring Dream (LaRue/Simmons) (Lisa LaRue music, Amy Simmons lyrics). Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)

From the album "Fast and Blue," Lisa LaRue 2KX, 2011

Lisa LaRue – keyboards • Steve Adams – guitars • John Payne – bass and additional vocals

Merrill Hale – drums • Michael Sadler – vocals

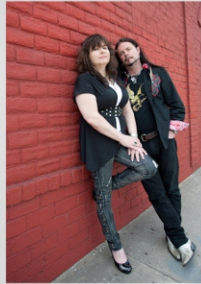
Disc One

LYRICS

Beautiful Illusion

(Lyrics by Lisa LaRue)

Sunlight comes
To the people at the water.
Waiting for
Souls to be blessed;
God's hand on them.
Singing together.
Beautiful Illusion.



Lisa LaRue, John Payne, 2010
Photo by Sean Buur

Lament of the Cherokee/Ruins of Home

(The Lament of the Cherokee – from a poem by
John Howard Payne, 1842)

O, soft fills the dew, on the twilight descending,
And night over the distant forest is bending,
But midnight enshrouded my lone heart in its dwelling,
A tumult of woe is swelling,
And a tear unbecoming a warrior is telling,

Can a tree that is torn from its root by the fountain,
flourish, removed to the rock of the mountain,
Unwarned by the sun and unwatered by care?
Though vesper be kind, her sweet dews in bestowing,
No life giving brook in its shadows is flowing,
And when the chill winds of the desert are blowing,
So droops the transplanted and lone Cherokee.
Sacred graves of my sires, I left you forever,
How melted my heart when I bade you adieu,
O'er the ruins of home, o'er my heart's desolation,
For death's dark encounter, I make preparation,

He hears the last groan of the wild Cherokee.

Recurring Dream

(lyrics: Amy V. Simmons, arr. By John Payne and Michael Sadler)

Concentric journey
Through shade and light
Within a subterranean fire.
Recurring daydream,
You turn my head.
Within this universe we share.

Truth and faith
To lead us to
An everlasting core.

Begin to end,
We begin again,
Walking through the time of man.
The life we knew,
Remembering,
We were here so many times before.

Refrain of lifesong,
All the notes relational to the soul.
Flames of truth,
We play the story
Throughout our everywhere.

Knowledge so green,
Grows between our feet.
Lines are unwritten in the dust.



Don Schiff, Lisa LaRue
& Michael Sadler
Photo by
Cathie Gardner Adams

Disc Two

Jam Jehan Nima (*LaRue/Adams/Hale/Alvarez*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced by Lisa LaRue, John Payne and Steve Adams. Mixed by John Payne. Mastered by Devgel Studios
From the album "Fast and Blue," Lisa LaRue 2KX, 2011

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, Steve Adams – guitars and bass, Mike Alvarez – cello, Merrill Hale – drums
Mitch Perry – guitar solos, John Payne – vocals

Prometheus (*Hale/Adams with LaRue/Schiff*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced by Lisa LaRue, Steve Adams and John Payne. Mixed by John Payne. Mastered by Devgel Studios
From the album "Fast and Blue," Lisa LaRue 2KX, 2011

Lisa LaRue and Ryo Okumoto – keyboards, Steve Adams – guitars, Mike Alvarez – cello, Merrill Hale – drums
Don Schiff – NS Stickbass

Beautiful Life (*LaRue/Adams/Hale/Schiff/Schiff*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced and mixed by Lisa LaRue. Mastered by Devgel Studios. From the EP "Beautiful Life," Lisa LaRue 2KX

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, Steve Adams – guitars, Merrill Hale – drums, Don Schiff – NS Stickbass,
Dave Schiff – horns *Hidden Bonus Track

Aspiration (*LaRue/Fantacone*), *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced by Lisa LaRue and Federico Fantacone. Mixed by Lisa LaRue, Mastered by Federico Fantacone

From the album "Sonic Landscapes," Lisa LaRue and Federico Fantacone

Lisa LaRue – piano, Federico Fantacone – orchestration

Sussuration (*LaRue/Baker/Adams/Alvarez/Hale/Schiff*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced and mixed by Lisa LaRue. Mastered by Adam Ayan, Gateway Mastering.

From the EP "Sussuration," 2KX, 2014

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, Steve Adams and John Baker – guitars, Don Schiff – NS Stickbass, Merrill Hale – drums,
Mike Alvarez – cello, Brenda K – violin, Michael Wheeler – dilruba

Lemniscate (*LaRue/Adams/Hale/Alvarez/Schiff/Schiff*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

Produced and mixed by Lisa LaRue. Mastered by John Baker, Studio Zero – LA

From the EP "Sussuration," Dedicated to the children who perished in the wreck of the Bulgaria.

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, Steve Adams – guitars, Mike Alvarez – cello, Merrill Hale – drums,

Don Schiff – NS Stickbass, Dave Schiff – horns, Michael Sadler and John Baker – vocals

Just Waiting For (*LaRue*) *Third Childhood Publishing (ASCAP)*

'space demo' produced by Lisa LaRue and Gilli Smyth, mixed by Lisa LaRue, unmastered

From the cassette-only release, "Dreamscapes" Lisa LaRue

Lisa LaRue – keyboards, Gilli Smyth – spoken word

Disc Two

LYRICS

Susurration

(Lyrics by John Baker)

What's that you're telling me
One day I'll be listening
A message through the trees
For all to understand

I feel the breath of you
Calling out to the best of me and
It's every answer
There to understand
Around us
The sound of

Hear the voice of the spirits speaking
Through the trees to a world that's weeping
Reminding me that my heart's still beating
I can hear the wind blow
Whisper down from the sky above us
Listening now to the ones who love us
The leaves will speak they are all among us
Can you hear the voices

From the beginning time
Souls ascending spirits climb
Born of a star so bright
Voices in the air

I hear the wind whisper messages
All there to understand
Around us
The sound of

Hear the voice of the spirits speaking
Through the trees to a world that's weeping
Reminding me that my heart's still beating
I can hear the wind blow
Whisper down from the sky above us
Listening now to the ones who love us
The leaves will speak they are all among us
Can you hear the voices

Just Waiting For

(a poem by Lisa LaRue, interpreted by Gilli Smyth)

Just waiting for some peace,
Long enough to find answers.
Waiting for a chance to be
The me I see inside.
Just waiting for,
Just waiting for....
To me, you seem a bright star,
Shining on my life.
But I'm waiting for you to see
The reflection.
Just waiting for,
Just waiting for....
I've waited to see the you,
Inside of you.
But found the you,
Inside of me.

And now, I'm waiting for....
(*phone rings*)

Mitch Perry



Don Schiff, Lisa LaRue,
Mike Alvarez, John Payne

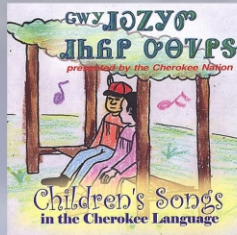


John Baker, Lisa LaRue,
Don Schiff

Discography



Beloved Tribal Women
Lisa LaRue
SOAR/Natural Visions 1995



Children's Songs in the Cherokee Language
Lisa LaRue & Anna Sixkiller
Cherokee Nation, 2001



That Ol' Sofkee Spoon
Lisa LaRue & John Timothy
Fingerwoven 2001



Ama
Lisa LaRue
Fingerwoven
1996 & 2008



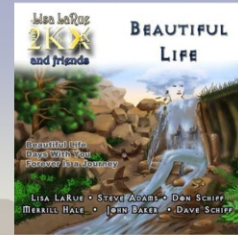
Transformation 2012
Lisa LaRue
Fingerwoven 2008



World Class
Lisa LaRue Project 2K9
Fingerwoven 2009



Fast and Blue
Lisa LaRue 2KX
Fingerwoven 2011



Beautiful Life
Lisa LaRue 2KX & Friends
Fingerwoven 2011



Sonic Landscapes
Lisa LaRue &
Federico Fantacone
Fingerwoven 2014



Sussuration
2KX
Fingerwoven 2014

Guest Appearances



Stargazer
Head Transfer Process for the
Ronnie James Dio Stand Up & Shout
Cancer Fund, 2012



Strange Ang3ls
David Mark Pearce
AOR Heaven 2011

Not shown:

Dreamscapes
Lisa LaRue
(cassette) Voiceprint US 1992



Esquire III - No Spare Planet
Esquire
Cherry Red 2016

Origins

TWENTY-FIVE
YEARS OF

LISA LARUE

Dedicated to those I love - Spencer Snedden, John Baker, John Payne, and Nikki Squire ... and to the memory of Barry Solomon who can never be thanked enough, Gilli Smyth who paved the way for women in prog and was one of the most comforting people I've ever met, and to Keith Emerson always - for the inspiration.

Thank you everyone for 25 years of allowing me to make music. Thank you to those who were always there and were a part of my world, and thank you dear friends who care and look out for me. Thank you to those who are always there, no matter what ... Jo Emerson, Lynn Janway and Mindy Brundige, and to Yvelisse Belisario for graphic bail-outs. Thank you to Topeka, KS where I started playing in 1966 and has welcomed me home. This place is where my origins are and where I shall stay. Thank you Nick Katona for helping get this celebration of 25 years out there, it is my legacy and my epitaph! -Lisa LaRue, 2018



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