

# the plug

the printed stage  
for local bands!

Piper Bateman  
by darin d'onofrio

Some years ago, when my son asked to take a lead guitar/ Rock band class with Jim Bowley at the Music Conservatory of Maryland, I never imagined I would be writing an article about the band's petite blonde singer. At 12 or 13 years old, Piper Bateman was learning to incorporate her considerable talent with her gregarious personality. It was apparent that she had the drive to express herself openly and on a more public forum than school-related musical programs.

Fast forward a few years and as I'm preparing a piece about the local young band, Crying Out Loud; I recognize her name and remember the energetic group of kids from the Conservatory and their "front woman"! Although all the members showed promise, Piper's performance emanated an unmistakable talent.

As happens to many young bands, high school ends and the band breaks up as members disperse to different colleges and career paths. But that was not going to stop Piper; it didn't even slow her down! Crying Out Loud was the public forum she needed to launch her to the next level, solo performance.

A solo career is the hardest, most demanding form of performance, requiring complete focus and the pressure of being "the one and only" on stage. Piper persevered and has truly come into her own, performing at a variety of venues, from fine dining restaurants like Pairings Bistro to fund-raisers for SARC, gaining her more experience at her young age than many that have been performing for years.



This year Piper started college at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, with a double major in communications and music. While at school, she'll be looking for gigs in the area, and she'll be close enough to come home for weekend gigs.

Just as exciting is the release of her first music video, "*(Finally) a Refugee*", scheduled to come out this fall!

"The song is about a break up, but instead of being sad it focuses on being independent and learning about yourself from past hardships . . . Jane Hollon is the director. I am so excited as this is my first big musical project and really think it will be great to promote my writing abilities as well as my entertainment skills."

As Piper's well-deserved fame continues to grow, I am certain you will be able to catch her, periodically, at venues throughout Harford County. Look for "*(Finally) a Refugee*" and like her on Facebook. 📱

*Darin D'Onofrio has been involved in the local music scene for over 20 years. As the former owner of Otter Point Station he had live music 6 nights a week and sat in with many of the acts on drums or guitar. He is now selling real estate for Long and Foster and is still performing occasionally as well as recording his originals.*