

# KNOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

## Manhattan Transfer founding member Erin Dickins releases new album

Erin Dickins is an original and founding member of 80s band, The Manhattan Transfer. Her career has spanned over 40 years. Her latest jazz album titled, "Vignettes," is due for release on October 20.

"I fell in love with music as a young kid. My dad was a very talented amateur musician who played jazz piano. He played guitar, banjo, and Dixieland. He was my biggest influence because I could sing and play with him. He bought me a guitar which was such great fun," remembers Erin. "I also had my little stereo and my mom would buy records for me such as Broadway shows, Barbara Streisand and Tony Bennett. Those were my early influences. I would then go into my bedroom and listen to Dave Van Ronk and Bob Dylan! I was greatly influenced by just about everything that was going on at the time. I had my parents' influence, jazz, pop of the times, and underground folk music."

When asked if she ever considered a career other than music, she answered: "It never occurred to me that I wouldn't be a singer. There was never anything formal. During school, I participated in singing groups. While I was in college, I went to New York and met a publisher through someone that my mother knew when I was a kid. Through that experience is how I met Tim Hauser and Marty Nelson of The Manhattan Transfer. They were looking for female singers. We sang together and it was magic. It all happened before I really had a chance to think about what I wanted to do with my life. I was definitely driven for a 19-year-old."

"I stayed with The Manhattan Transfer for five years," said Erin. "I loved being part of the group but did not want to be an ensemble singer the rest of my life. I worked on some of my own projects with Columbia [Records]. I toured with Leonard Cohen and Gregg Allman, which was crazy! [laughs]. I sang on other artist's recordings such as Talking Heads, Yoko Ono and James Brown. I was able to have these other experiences which were wonderful although I did miss the giant success of The Manhattan Transfer."

Erin's latest project is a collection of jazz

songs on her new CD, which is due for release on October 20. When asked about her choice of songs, Erin said, "I wanted to do some of these songs for years. I knew that I could sing them well. I am not sure what exactly prompted me to do each song with one musician. I recorded all over the planet. There were recordings in Nashville, Texas, New York, Hawaii and London.

She continues, "I wanted to produce something myself. As soon as I started working on this project, I realized for the first time in my life I didn't have a wonderful group of people who I trusted deeply telling me what I wasn't allowed to do. This is a great expression of who I am. The sound of the songs is from the collaboration with the musicians. It made me rise to the occasion."

Erin took a break from the music world to recharge and regroup before returning to her work with renewed energy. "I had my burn out point several years ago and moved to Hawaii. I escaped music for three years. Eventually, what you are meant to do will tap you on the shoulder and let you know that you are still being called. Music is my muse and lover. I have more discretion now and am able to record when I want to. This new CD is all-encompassing and knocked everything out of the box for a year. You're glad the project is complete but then you start thinking of what you can do next."

In addition to her work in the music industry, Erin has another passion she is pursuing - her love of cooking. She owns a company called Sizzle and Swing, which is a collection of spices. "As a creative person, I really do not know any musicians who aren't brilliant in the kitchen. It brings love and light unless you burn the toast," chuckles Erin. "Sizzle and Swing produces 10 different flavors of herbal seasonings that are natural, sugar free and gluten free. They are hand blended, high quality seasonings that make cooking easier for the home chef. I am currently working on two more flavors. I have a wonderful team of workers. It is funny because when I am doing a cooking demonstration at trade shows, I end up singing!"

Erin takes a few moments to reflect on



music and its purpose. "I think it's important for anyone involved in the arts to encourage the next generation. Programs are often being cut from the schools. People do not realize that these programs are game changers for kids! This next generation is going to be running our country and shaping the world. They need to have the benefit and joy of the performing arts in their souls so they can do it right."

Erin's new CD, Vignettes is available on her web site, CD Baby, iTunes, and Amazon. [www.erindickins.com](http://www.erindickins.com)  
[www.sizzleandswing.net](http://www.sizzleandswing.net)



**ACOUSTIC POWER TRIO!**

**Saturday, Oct. 14  
DUBLIN DOWN  
Ashtabula • 7-10**

**Fall & Winter  
bookings available  
call Scott  
440-812-3772**

**Featuring:  
Scott Treen, Chuck Ditri  
& Gary Slovensky**

**Dublin Down  
IRISH  
Pub & Eatery**

4618 Main Avenue • Ashtabula  
440-992-3013 • [www.dublindown.pub](http://www.dublindown.pub)  
Hours: Kitchen open Mon-Sat 11am-10pm  
Bar open til 11 Mon-Thurs & Midnite Fri & Sat  
Closed Sunday.

Dublin Down Presents: **"Main Ave. Live"**

**TUESDAYS...Cornhole Challenge!**  
Sign up starts at 5:30. \$5 entry per person...Cash prizes awarded!  
**WEDNESDAYS...Open Mic Night**  
with Mike Brown 7-10pm

**SATURDAY 10/14...Just Like That**

**SATURDAY 10/28  
SCARYOKE  
with Suggested Remedy**  
Karaoke 7-?



Be Sure To Like Our Facebook Page For More Info!

AS OF 10-11-17

**156**  
DAYS UNTIL  
ST. PATTY'S DAY

Stop in and Cheer on the Indians to the World Series Championship! Watch all the games on our BIG screen video wall and enjoy drink & food specials that will put a Francisco Lindor smile on your face!

**Daily Specials & Events**

**MONDAY: MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**  
DRINK & FOOD SPECIALS  
during the game!

**TUESDAY: Lucky Hours 2pm-6pm**  
\$1 Off All Drinks.  
Cornhole Challenge

**WEDNESDAY: Ladies Night with**  
Drink Specials & Open Mic Jam

**THURSDAY: CRAFT BEER NIGHT!**  
\$1 OFF CRAFT BEERS! Featured breweries  
New Holland, Platform, Great Lakes,  
Lagunitas & Many More!

**FRIDAY: Free Hors d'oeuvres**

**SATURDAY: GO BUCKEYES! Food & Drink**  
Specials during all O.S.U. Games!