

Hit European Tunes Played Live In Long Beach



—Photo courtesy Till Kahrs

Till Kahrs, a Long Beach resident, is celebrating the release of his newest CD.

By Ashleigh Oldland, Editor

A passion for music and a habit of playing his music in the coffeehouse circuit has become more than a "side job" for Long Beach resident Till Kahrs.

Kahrs, a musician who is signed to German record labels and has many hit songs in Europe, is celebrating the release of his seventh album, "Midlife Vices," which includes the single "Soldiers Come Home."

While he started off playing country rock tunes in coffeehouses in the area, Kahrs said he rarely plays his music in Long Beach. Which is why Kahrs is hosting a CD release party and music video premiere for his song "Shanghai Sun" starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at Buster's Beach House at Alamitos Bay Landing.

"It's free admission and a local venue," he said. "I want local folks to come stop by and celebrate and help me honor the veterans in this community. My single 'Soldiers Come Home' really is dedicated to veterans, and with Veterans Day this weekend, this is a time to honor them."

Kahrs, born in Hamburg, Germany, said he grew up in Orange County and has lived in Long Beach for more than a decade now. He began playing guitar in high school and college, joining a few garage bands but never thinking his music would become much more than a hobby.

After Kahrs shopped around some songs to American labels, he sent demo tapes to a record label in Germany and was signed in the early 1990s. He toured in the summers of 1994 and 1995 to promote his hit songs, "Playin' For Keeps" and "Slow Burn Woman."

While Kahrs said he is grateful for the support his music has garnered locally and abroad, the reason he believes his music has been more successful in Europe because Europeans get more excited about singer-songwriters.

"Over in Europe, more than any other place, they really like singer-songwriters," Kahrs said. "They like someone who plays guitar and sings and composes music that they have written. A lot of big artists here (in the United States), the songs are written or produced by other people. Over there, they want the singer-songwriter."

Since breaking into the European music scene, Kahrs said he has had an illustrious career, but his "bread and butter" career remains his business as a corporate consultant specializing in communication skills.

"Music is my love and my passion," he said. "But after a few garage bands in college didn't go anywhere, I wanted to get a real job and go legit and make some money. So I continued writing songs and singing ... things worked out that way."

"I'm grateful that I've been able to have my own business and pursue my dreams at the same time."

For details about Kahrs, or to purchase his music, visit <http://tillkahrs.com>.

LIFESTYLE

Resident, Business Owner Records Album In Germany

By Darcy Leigh
Richardson
Editor



DREAM COME TRUE. Till Kahrs, owner of a business communications consulting company in Long Beach, recently released a song on a German record label. —Photo by Darcy Leigh Richardson

Although it might be tempting to compare Till Kahrs to David Hasselhoff, the similarities begin and end with the facts that both men are signed to German record labels and have sung hit songs in Germany.

Kahrs, born in Hamburg, Germany, said he grew up in Orange County. Kahrs's musical influences included Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, The Eagles and The Who. Even though Kahrs said he loved singing vocals and playing the guitar, he has viewed music as more of a "side job."

That "side job" status might change with the release of Kahrs's latest single, "Soldiers Come Home," which already is a hit in Europe, he said. Later this year, a 14-song LP released by German record label Marabu Records will mean the culmination of Kahrs's dream — a return to the music scene.

The Long Beach resident of 10 years said his "bread and butter" has been his independent corporate consulting business, specializing in communication skills. However, Kahrs is no stranger to performing music.

"In the early to mid-1990s, I started performing covers and my original songs on the coffeehouse circuit," Kahrs said. "I play rhythm guitar and I'd describe my sound as country, country rock, acoustic and a little bit of folk. I've got a baritone voice that lends itself to country."

After Kahrs shopped around some songs to American labels, he said he sent demo tapes to a record label in Germany and was signed in the early 1990s. Kahrs toured in the summers of 1994 and 1995 to promote his hit songs, "Playin' For Keeps" and "Slow Burn Woman."

"I thought my (performance career) had taken its natural course and I reached a point where I couldn't get any higher," Kahrs said. "I tried to get a record deal in the States and came close, but not quite. So I thought that I could be a songwriter and just not perform. I've had about a dozen cuts with major stars in Germany."

Although Kahrs was behind the scenes, his songwriting caught the eye of a Marabu Records executive, who liked his lyrical style and discovered that Kahrs had formerly been a hit singer. Kahrs said returning to the studio in February this year was intimidating, but he hadn't lost confidence in his voice.

"The recording studio was different because everything is in digital now and not done on tape," Kahrs said. "But I was really pleased with the results."

"Soldiers Come Home" is not a political statement or a diatribe against war, Kahrs said. Instead, the song is about yearning for loved ones set against the backdrop of war.

"The album comes from personal experience and a lot of other people's experiences too," Kahrs said. "There's common themes of getting older, the tragedy of war, and love. I think what sets me apart is that I come up with very clever and catchy song titles. I've been called 'the master of hooks.' I'm a singer/songwriter, and that is seen as very attractive in Germany."

When the album is released, Kahrs said he would enjoy playing locally — but he still loves his day job.

"If I sell as many records as David Hasselhoff, I would go back on tour," Kahrs said. "It's a thrill. I love playing live. I think it would be scary as hell, but fun. I'm grateful that I've been able to have my own business and pursue my dreams at the same time."

For information about Kahrs's consulting and training company, visit www.TheTrainer4u.com. Kahrs's single, "Soldiers Come Home," is available at www.amazon.com.