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Makin' noise: Linda Storey raises money and awareness for MS

By Vince Darcangelo (Contact) Thursday, May 22, 2008



Photo by Mark Leffingwell

Linda Storey rehearses with members of the John O'Gods and the Indulgiers for her upcoming Rockin' Out MS concerts.

Linda Storey was on her way to a promising career in music. An accomplished guitarist and bassist who grew up in Broomfield, Storey was managed by local promoter Chuck Morris and traveled the country playing music in the mid-70s.

But something didn't feel quite right.

"I was just on the road the whole time, and then all of a sudden I'd get dizzy onstage," Storey says. "Then I'd have to take a cane onstage."

In her early 20s, with a promising music career ahead of her, Storey was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"MS affects people usually in the prime of their life," Storey says.

In the years following her diagnosis, Storey hired backup players to fill in when she got tired onstage but did her best to follow her dreams.

"It just got a little bit harder all the time," she says. "I kept trying -- every last minute -- to keep performing."

Finally, in her 30s she lost the ability to walk.

These days, Storey is in a wheelchair, and isn't able to play the guitar anymore, but she still writes music and performs with her daughter Jessica handling guitar duties. Together they play at the Rockin' Out MS benefit show at the Rock N' Soul Café on Sunday. The concert supports CASE for MS, an organization Storey founded in 2006 that works for a cure and provides advocacy for those with MS. The organization raises money for the National MS Society, does volunteer and nonprofit work within Colorado and supports musicians with MS.

"There are a lot of musicians that have it," says Storey, adding that country music star Clay Walker is among the

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What Rockin' Out MS, with Linda and Jessica Storey and the John O'Gods

When 7 p.m. Sunday

Where Rock N' Soul Café, 5290 Arapahoe Ave., Suite 1, Boulder

Tickets \$10

Info 303-443-5108 or www.rocknsoulcafe.com

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afflicted. "A lot of people don't know because only 25 to 30 percent end up in wheelchairs."

Sunday's show is the concluding event in a four-night run of spring benefits in Colorado, including gigs in Denver and Fort Collins. Joining Linda and Jessica Storey at the Rock N' Soul is Irish band the John O'Gods, which is led by Mark Gilligan, who is also suffering from MS. While Gilligan is in town, he and Storey will record songs they've written about the disease, blending Gilligan's Irish style with Storey's rock 'n' roll.

Storey will be recording her new song "Make Some Noise," which, like one of her earlier songs, "Don't Let it Stop You," encourages those with MS to stay active.

"I'm trying to help people realize that even though something like this happens to them, it doesn't have to stop you," Storey says.

Copies of the recording should be available at the show.

Also involved with the benefit, though unlikely to perform at Sunday's show, is Denver Irish rock band the Indulgents, whose bass player's wife has MS. Previous benefits have featured a local who's who, including Firefall, Chris Daniels, Wendy Woo, Nina Storey (no relation) and Melissa Ivey.

Linda Storey says fans should expect a great rock 'n' roll show.

"How much funner can it be than blues rock and Irish music?" she says. "It's going to be killer."

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