



katie reider

Cincinnati native folk-rocker teams up with Over the Rhine to play benefit concert at Crossroads

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CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

Eight years ago, Cincinnati was abuzz with the sounds of a new singer/songwriter, a just-out-of-high-school kid whose acoustic balladry and dynamic stage presence found an immediate audience in her hometown.

Katie Reider, with a gifted voice and a handful of songs, released her debut album *Wonder* to an adoring Queen City, subsequently sweeping the Cincinnati Entertainment Awards and solidifying a devoted fan base here in town. It's a beginning that Reider, now four albums later (her most recent is *Simplicity*), looks back on with ... well, wonder.

"Cincinnati just kind of came like a big wave that landed on my plate," she says with a sense of awe even now, years after the fact. "*Wonder* was just

so well-received and this kind of boom happened. It was kind of a charmed experience."

ALL IN THE FAMILY

For Reider, music was a family affair and a logical career choice. "I grew up with music in the family. My dad was very much influential – guitars all around the house," says Reider, referring to Rob Reider, a singer-songwriter and one-time musician on the locally-produced *Bob Braun Show* in the '70s and '80s. Reider's brother, Robbie, also caught the bug and built a career making music.

"The history of my dad made it a really sweet and easy transition for me in Cincinnati – to go from nobody to somebody on the radar," she says. "People would recognize my dad's name and be like, 'Oh, my gosh, that's his daughter. Wow.'

"It wasn't until my senior year in high school that I started writing at the point where I thought, 'I might be able to do something with this,'" she says. "So, between high school and college, I started recording my first album and released it my freshman year in college."

The result was *Wonder*, a collection of spacious, folk-rock songs that exhibited musical ability and lyrical maturity you don't often hear from a recent high school graduate.

BEYOND 'WONDER'

Wonder cemented Reider's Cincinnati music career, but one problem remained: As an Ohio State student, she wasn't really a local musician anymore. "I lived in Columbus, but my band was in Cincinnati and I was doing music primarily in Cincinnati," she

says. "In Columbus and other cities, I had to do what most people have to do – start playing the venues that you don't really want to play, but in order to get into them, that's what you do. I had to build a fanbase, to earn people's ears."

The hard work paid off – now out of college, Reider has expanded beyond Cincinnati, and beyond her adopted hometown of Columbus, to become a nationally recognized act. "We can do stuff regionally and have people come," she says. "We can play from Michigan to Indianapolis to pretty much anywhere in Ohio and have a good turnout."

Reider's success is due in part to her dedication to putting on consistently high-quality performances. "We strive to make great music and to do it well. We're trying to take it to the next level.

"And it's fun," she adds. "I want people to be laughing, I want people to have an escape from the work week. I think the energy on stage between me and my band is good and it's positive – it's more than an uplifting experience. We talk about real-life stuff, but there's no chance you can be brought down at a show. Unless, you know, the stage catches fire or something like that ... that would be sad."

AT A CROSSROADS

Reider's performance at Crossroads Community Church with Over the Rhine will be something of a homecoming – Reider lent her musical abilities to the church when it first began. But, for many fans, the idea of a church putting on rock shows is a head-scratcher.

"There's no question that we want to be a venue where people can come and enjoy something in their community," says Todd Henry, creative director for the 3,000-seat church. "We've built this really nice performance facility, and we feel it would be a waste to let it sit unused. And we absolutely want the facility to be seen as a community center – to make it accessible to people in different ways."

Henry adds that concerts are a big part of Crossroads' plans for the facilities. "We're definitely planning on opening up our auditorium to concerts of all types," he says. "This is right down the middle of what we're planning on doing on a regular basis."

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT: Over the Rhine with Katie Reider – benefits Ava's Hope

WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, May 19

WHERE: Crossroads Community Church, 3500 Madison Road, Oakley

PRICE: \$20-\$25

PARKING: Large lot

CONTACT: (513) 731-7400, (877) 725-8849, www.ticketalternative.com, www.katiereider.com, www.overtherhine.com or avashope.org.



ETC. Katie Reider will also play the CiN Stage at Taste of Cincinnati USA at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 27.

GIVING HOPE

All proceeds from this concert will go to Ava's Hope (avashope.org), an organization that provides funding for international adoptions.

"We're hoping to fund three international adoptions with this concert," says Todd Henry, who serves as Crossroads creative director and, along with his wife, co-founded Ava's Hope. "In the richest country in the history of the world, it's ridiculous that money would get in the way of somebody providing a home for a child that's in an orphanage overseas."

After watching friends abandon attempts to adopt internationally because of finances, the Henrys decided to start Ava's Hope, a unique organization that funds all costs for single adoptions, which can often reach the \$30,000 mark. "We can't change the world, but we can make a difference in whatever way we can," Henry says.