

# Madonna Nash

## Article

This article was written for my Magazine Writing class. The assignment was to interview a prominent individual and write a profile piece based on their achievements. We were then instructed to contact publications in an attempt to have our work published. I contacted The Beat Magazine, a music and arts magazine located in Wilmington, NC, and received publication in their October 2010 issue.

This assignment demonstrates:



Skills for effectively conducting an interview



Proficiency in magazine writing



Ability to develop working relationships with publishers

# THE BEAT MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2010

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## Madonna Nash

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# Madonna Nash Backyard Girl

By Courtney Moran Cummins



**O**n October 28, 1936, country music sensation Charlie Daniels was born right here in Wilmington, NC. After a successful career that continues to this day, he became one of the city's, and nation's, finest country music talents.

Fast forward a few decades later and meet Madonna Nash, another hometown country singer with dreams of similar success. An artist on the rise, Nash has taken Wilmington by storm with her rich, passionate voice, creative songwriting, and charming personality. This month, Nash releases her debut album on Mad Charm Records.

Recognized as one of the area's top talents, in 2008 and 2009 Nash was nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year at the Carolina Music Awards, a

nomination only given to a few select artists across the state. In that time she's performed with some of country music's most talented artists, including Gretchen Wilson, Jason Michael Carroll, Shenandoah, and Gloriana.

After playing at the Time Warner Cable Music Pavilion in Raleigh, the

**“Although her taste in music does vary, Nash has never doubted which genre to pursue. “It’s always been country for me,” she says. “I love songs with great stories.”**

House of Blues in Myrtle Beach, and countless local bars, Nash was able to catch the eye of producer Charles Fulp in 2009. Fulp – known for writing and producing the original version of “Who Let the Dogs Out?” made famous by the Baha Men – signed Nash as the first artist to his new label. “The first time I saw her was at a live

show,” says Fulp. “When I saw her, I pretty much thought, ‘She’s a star... or should be.’”

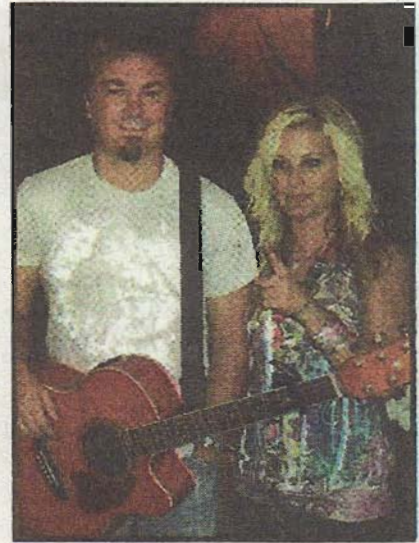
Raised in a musical family, it's no surprise Nash chose to pursue a career as a musician. With guitar-playing parents and a mother who graduated with a major in music from

East Carolina University, Nash is no stranger to the scene. “My mom said when I was a kid – and she would push me in the swing

in the back yard – I used to sing ‘Sunshine on My Shoulders’ by John Denver, over and over again,” says a glowing Nash. Her first memory of performing in public was for the neighborhood children when she was just a kid herself. “I would hang up curtains and stuff on the jungle gym in the backyard, you know, and put on



From backyard Bar-B-Q's to festivals to back stage with Edwin McCain



little shows for them.”

Eventually, Nash began playing the local bars with her father and soon started writing her own songs. The first she ever wrote was for a battle of the bands competition, which required participants to perform original music. With some help from her brother's band, she and a friend teamed up to write "Highways," an ambitious and true story about wanting to head to Nashville to live the dream.

Growing up, Nash says she listened to all kinds of music – especially country. "Definitely Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers. . . just everybody [and] anything country," says Nash. Although her taste in music does vary, Nash has never doubted which genre to pursue. "It's always been country for me," she says. "I love songs with great stories."

She names Miranda Lambert as her favorite contemporary artist, and cites Keith Urban, George Strait, and many others as musical influences. Their scope, in addition to all of the artists she listened to growing up, show up in her own music. Since hooking up with producer Fulp, Nash made several trips to Nashville to work on the recording and production of her debut album at Song City Studios and worked hard on perfecting her modern country sound. Its official release will be Tuesday, October 12th, at the Dirty

Martini, from 6 pm – 9 pm.

Nash says fans can expect a mix of traditional and pop-country from the album. "'Beautiful' has more of a traditional feel, and a song called 'Whiskey Whispers' is very traditional- esque," says Nash. For those interested in today's pop-country sound, Nash suggests "Dirty Little Secret," which will be the first single released off the album, available through her website, [www.madonnanash.com](http://www.madonnanash.com), and at Amazon and iTunes.

Eventually, Nash hopes to move the album to stores and to "whoever wants to take hold." Her first music video debuted at the end of last year for a song

titled "Drive," and can be found on YouTube, as well as Nash's website and her MySpace page.

After the album is released and the touring takes off, Nash plans on making Nashville her permanent residence. "I'm done," she boasts. "This is what I'm doing." But regardless of what she chooses to do in her music career, Nash knows she can always return to her childhood roots and the backyards where she got her start. "I'll always have a home here," she says with a smile.

CD Release  
Tuesday, October 12th,  
Dirty Martini, from 6 pm – 9 pm  
[www.madonnanash.com](http://www.madonnanash.com)

