

ENJOY!

MUSIC

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Music connects mother and son

Some mothers and their adult sons opt for lunch and a walk to spend time together, or perhaps wait for a holiday to roll around to pry open schedules.

Gretchen Gould of Poughkeepsie, a jazz singer and pianist who for decades has performed professionally in the Hudson Valley, shared some equally special time recently with her son Noel, who grew up locally but now lives in San Pedro, Calif., and works professionally in the music industry. But you aren't likely to find most mothers and sons sharing time the way these two waltzed through the hours.

At Noel's home, Gould sang in his new recording studio — she christened the equipment — and he engineered and produced her new album. They knocked off 15 tunes in four recording sessions held over one week.

The result is Gould's new CD "Lonely Afternoon," which on the back cover features a touching, black-and-white picture of the two, circa 1964. Also on the back cover is a shot of mother-and-son at the controls of the recording studio.

In the studio

In the photo, Noel Gould wears headphones and a rainbow tie-dye T-shirt and smiles like a 5-year-old playing with new toys on Christmas morning. His mother, also wearing headphones, looks a bit more serious — seemingly focused on the music and anxious to make a CD that sounds good.

This undertaking marks yet another milestone in this mother-and-son musical relationship. Gould, who taught music in the Poughkeepsie and Spackenkill school districts for 31 years, was her son's music teacher at Nassau School, taught him how to play stand-up bass and included him in jazz jams she had at the family house when he was young.

"We enjoyed working together," Gould said of the recent recording sessions with her son, a pianist who

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ON THE RECORD

has designed recording studios for Linkin Park, System of a Down and Rick Springfield and worked with Stevie Wonder and Graham Nash. "It brought us closer. It was a wonderful period of mother-son bonding."

Gould's CD — easy on the ears but not lacking for grooves — features a lovely collection of tunes by the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, Irving Berlin and others.

You can purchase the CD at www.cdbaby.com or at any of Gould's upcoming performances, which include Angelo's Restaurant on East Main Street in Beacon tonight and Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., where she will perform with Bob Offerman on bass and Jimmy Schettino on drums.

Gould also occasionally sits in with Danny Goldman, Offerman and Schettino, who play together at the Busy Bee Cafe in Poughkeepsie on the first Saturday of each month.

Noel Gould isn't likely to be at any of these gigs, but seems satisfied with the musical memories of working with his mother and spending time with her.

"The entire project was a real pleasure for me," Noel Gould said in an e-mail, "because it was an opportunity to give back to her a small measure of the countless gifts she's given me over the years."

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