



[Visit the Tri-City Herald](#)

---

## More than words: Mid-Columbia residents share the songs that tell their love stories

*This story was published Tuesday, February 13th, 2007*

By Genoa Sibold-Cohn, Special to the Herald

Marilyn Lott hadn't even been to her senior prom when her husband proposed to the then-17-year-old Pasco girl after just three weeks of dating.

Their engagement was met with skepticism by her Pasco High classmates and a teacher who said the couple wouldn't last.

But Marilyn, 30, and her husband, Brandon, 34, now living in Burbank, have been married 12 years and have four children, ages 5 to 11.

Jazz-loving Marilyn says the lyrics to Nat King Cole's song *Too Young* could have been written about the jeers they withstood during their engagement -- noting "the song fits our love perfectly" when it says:

*"And yet we're not too young to know,  
This love will last though years may go,  
And then some day they may recall,  
We were not too young at all."*

While Marilyn said *Too Young* isn't the couple's "song," it is the most fitting description of their marriage. Still, she said they danced to John Michael Montgomery's *I Love The Way You Love* at their wedding.

Relationship expert Scott Kudia says it's not uncommon for couples to identify "their song" when they fall in love, but men and women do interpret the meaning differently.

"As far as the lyrics go, it's so personal because it speaks to you," said Kudia of San Diego.

Kudia gave the example of Michael Bubl's song *Home* to show the differences between the male and female interpretation of songs in his own relationship.

His girlfriend, who recently moved to the East Coast, sent him an MP3 file of the song because she was saddened by their distance. But Kudia felt energized when he heard the song because it told him that she missed him and wanted to be "home" with him.

Songs give men, particularly, an opportunity to speak from the heart without having to saying a word, notes Karen Jones, founder of The Heart Matters, a relationship, coaching and training company in Boston, and author of the soon-to-be-released book *Men are Great*.

"He can use a song to say something edgy, risky or vulnerable that would be too scary to say himself," Jones said.

Women tend to thrive on the sentimentality and sappiness that comes from a romantic song, she added.

The Herald asked Tri-City couples to examine their romantic relationships and identify songs that accurately described their relationships. Twenty-three couples, including one woman who wrote about her late husband, told us about popular songs that tell the story of their relationship.

Here are some of their stories:

➤ *There Goes My Life* Kenny Chesney

Couple: Jared and Christian Moran, both 21, of Kennewick.

These high school sweethearts thought their lives were over when they found out they were pregnant in 2005. But like country crooner Chesney's song, the couple discovered they could meet their dreams of attending school, working and married life as young parents. They're proud mom and dad to 16-month-old daughter Kaidyn.

"Kenny's song seemed to speak the words of our life like he had written the song for us," Christian Moran wrote.

➤ *Young Love* Sonny James

Don Perkins, 57, and Betty Perkins, 56, of Pasco.

The Perkins shared their first kiss together as young teens attending the old McLoughlin Junior High School in Pasco. Their family and friends didn't think it would last, Betty Perkins said. But the duo surpassed the challenges of young love and have been married 37 years.

"The song talks about true devotion and young love ... we are devoted to each other forever," Betty Perkins wrote.

➤ *Love Is A Battlefield* Pat Benatar

Couple: Carl J. Schmidt, 47, and Lea Schmidt, 46, of Kennewick.

Love, particularly marriage, isn't always "smooth sailing," explains Lea Schmidt. That's the main reason that Pat Benatar's song *Love Is A Battlefield* was playing in the Schmidt home after the couple had a spat.

"We fight but then we can't seem to leave each other," she wrote. "We always have had some kind of bond to one another. We're best friends, but sometimes we hate each other's guts. But always in the end, we stick together and love each other more than ourselves."

➤ *Bless The Broken Road* Rascal Flatts

Couples: Mike J. McDowell, 30, and Anna Marie Garcia, 31, of Richland.

Joseph and Tracy Rosane, both 24, of Pasco.

Both of these couples said this country ballad could have been written about their relationship and overcoming the heartbreak of past failed attempts at love. However, both couples say they found everlasting love in their new partner, just as the song describes.

"We knew we were meant to be together...we just had to follow the broken road down dark paths and loves that broke our hearts," Garcia wrote.

"Although the road was broken and hard to walk, it led me to the most amazing man in the world and I truly believe God blessed every inch of it," Tracy Rosane wrote of her husband and the song.

➤ *Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?* Rod Stewart

Couple: Laura Soper, 43, and her late husband, Wayne, of Kennewick.

The song that best describes the Sopers' relationship is one that shows that the depth of love transcends this lifetime.

Laura Soper played Rod Stewart's version of *Have I Told You Lately That I Love You* at the memorial service for her husband of 17 years. Wayne Soper died of cancer in 2004.

Now Laura Soper, who met Wayne on Valentine's Day 24 years ago, can't escape that song that she felt best depicted the love she shared with her very romantic husband.

"I hear it everywhere," she said, noting department stores and pharmacies often play the popular song.

Here are some of the songs that other Tri-City couples said best described their relationships:

- Dale and Louise Anderson of Richland: *Through The Years*, performed by Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme.
- Stan and Mary McCue of Richland: *Through The Years*, performed by Kenny Rogers.
- Steve and Krista Weeks of Richland: *Caught Up In You* by 38 Special.
- Brian and Elizabeth Ellis of Pasco: *When I'm 64* by The Beatles.
- Bob and Kate Loper of Richland: *You're Still The One* by Orleans.
- Steve Mansfield and Valerie Tullis of Kennewick: *I Knew I Loved You Before I Met You* by Savage Garden.
- Mark and Debbie Davis of Burbank: *Always* by Atlantic Starr.
- Todd and Connie Hull of Richland: *Making Memories of Us* sung by Keith Urban.
- Ray and Althea Stewart of Pasco: *It's The Little Things* by Sonny James.
- Tom and Colleen Ditch of Kennewick: *You're Still The One* by Shania Twain.
- Dave and Diane Retter of Kennewick: *I Can't Tell You Why* by The Eagles.
- Dave and Donna Mills of Kennewick: *Remember When* by Alan Jackson.
- Ray and Lynda Davis of Pasco: *Somewhere In Time* from the film of the same title.
- David and Michelle Reitz of West Richland: *Eternal Flame* by The Bangles.
- Ryan and Shelley Beauchamp of Kennewick: *You Light Up My Life* by Debbie Boone.
- Andrew and Heidi Keimig of Kennewick: *I'll Still Be Loving You* by Restless Heart.

---

Get the entire Tri-City Herald delivered to you at home - [subscribe now](#).

Call 509-586-2138 or 800-750-4967

6 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

7-12:00 p.m. Saturdays

7-10:30 a.m. Sundays and holidays

© 2005 Tri-City Herald, Associated Press and other wire services.