

DONNA FROST

Born Performing

Well, almost.

Nashville singer, songwriter, and touring recording artist knows no other life than being on the road. Mom was on the road performing two weeks before Donna was born, and back out on the road two weeks after giving birth.

"I came from a musical family. So, music has been with me from the start. Music has been my way of life from day one, and it will be until I die."

By Deborah Baliles
Photo by Price Harrison

The Frost Family's music road started with mom and dad, Barbara and Don Frost. The original quartet consisted of Barbara, Don, Carl and Alvin (Don's brothers), along with Mary (Barbara's sister). The quartet was called The Frost Juniors; traveling, and singing all over the place. The music lineage also goes back to grandparents who traveled and sang, too. However, Don and his brothers went on to form The Frost Brothers, performing all over the US, recording, and releasing a number of albums in their performing years.

Reflecting on her family heritage, Donna shares, "Dad is still very much active with recording, hosting, and producing his own TV show on TCT. Mom left performing in the early 1960s, working a job, and taking care of my siblings and I. She was my dad's right hand with his music endeavors in their later years. She sang in church until passing away on January 12, 2021. She and I were extremely close; miss her so much. With unavoidable restrictions, what hurt the most was not being able to sit with her during the five weeks that she was hospitalized with Covid. I was devastated. Still am. But I had to carry on."



Donna started playing piano at the age of nine. She fell in love with the guitar at the age of eleven and the guitar has ever since been her constant companion. Eighteen years ago, the ukulele would join her musical accomplishments. Playing her first professional show at just thirteen, Donna started traveling and performing at sixteen; followed shortly by her talents for songwriting. She has been a full-time music artist for over fifty years, playing some two-hundred-fifty shows a year, all over the country. She has recorded and released ten albums; the ninth album, "You Are My Song" was her first all-Gospel project. With family first, Donna credits her music to some other amazing artists, the likes of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Mylon LeFevre, and her dear friend, the late Skeeter Davis. Donna became a Christian as a teenager in the 70s, and at the height of The Jesus Movement.

Not only was she a friend, Skeeter Davis had a huge musical influence on Donna's music. Their friendship would become one of Donna's most memorable moments of all. Donna was a little girl in 1963 when she met Skeeter. A longtime friend of the Frost family, Donna told Skeeter that she wanted to sing with her when she grew up. Diagnosed with cancer (1966), Skeeter called Donna, "It is time for us to sing together." Donna traveled with Skeeter for the last eight years of her life, singing harmonies. Their travels together took them to Barbados, St. Lucia, and cities all across the US, even to the Grand Ole Opry stage. Donna is ever reminiscent of her friend, "It was quite the adventure of a lifetime. Skeeter was a devout Christian. We always sang Gospel songs in her shows, always talking of Jesus, on and off stage. Her written last request for her funeral was for me to sing with the Grand Ladies of the Opry. Honored to do so, and honored once more in 2013 to perform *The End Of The World* at the posthumous induction of Skeeter Davis into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame.

Nowadays, Donna travels and performs solo. The wear and tear of the road posed some health issues for the singer where she had to cancel a few dates. The past three years have been a roller coaster for most all performing artists, with so many things shutting down around them from the effects of the pandemic. Donna went live on Facebook for sixty-two weeks in a row, all to stay connected with the music and her fans. As well, she has written and recorded five albums in the past three years, with much of the music inspired by her mother. "My greatest reward is when people come up to me afterwards, just to tell me how my songs moved them in some sort of way. I know that God gave me the music to help others. These are the greatest blessings of all." By way of helping others, Donna is involved with Music for Seniors, an organization that provides live music for seniors in various facilities and memory care groups. She is also involved with

The Humane Society of Sumner County, as well as Room in the Inn for the homeless community.

Donna has earned eleven consecutive ASCAP Plus awards as a performing songwriter. She was a Kerrville New Folk Finalist in 2004. In 2019, she was presented with the Music for Seniors' Musician Partner of the Year award. And, in April of this year, she won the Mississippi Music Foundation's 'Best Americana Artist' award. Additionally, Donna is a featured artist on her dad's weekly TV Show, Don Frost Family and Friends on TCT Network.

Donna's latest single release is *God Knows*, from the album, "You Are My Song." "Becoming a Christian at thirteen, still it has taken years for me to get it right. With my life together now, I am growing stronger in the faith as I grow older. God has blessed me so much and brought me through a lot. It was time to do a Gospel album. I have written more Gospel songs in recent years than ever before. God just keeps putting them in my heart. I am so thankful!"

Continuing, "I, myself, am a work in progress. But there are so many people hurting right now, all around us. Everyone has gone through, or is going through, something. The past three years have taken its toll on us all. People have lost so much; loved ones, businesses, and homes. Seems so much loss has given way to hatred and division everywhere in these troublesome times. Jesus said that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This message is needed now more than ever. I have definitely had some vivid experiences with God. He has brought me through the worst of times and given me such joy in my heart. No truer words than the songs, *Because He Lives* and *His Eye Is On The Sparrow*. This confirmed *work in progress* is at peace. I am content with my life today, because of Him."

Donna Frost is eager to share her life and her music, be it a church service, concert, or outreach program. "My prayer is for something that I may sing, or say, will touch someone's heart. I wrote a song which appears on my "Quarantine Sessions Volume Two" called *The Love That Lives In Me*. I call it my prayer:

*Let me be the light in the darkness,
a silver lining inside a cloud.
Let me bring hope to the hopeless,
for as long as I am allowed.
Let me show strength when my body is weary,
let me be bold even when I am meek.
But most of all let others see,
the love that lives in me.*

Born performing, or born to perform - Donna Frost is faithfully and gracefully carrying on the great Frost Family musical legacy.

