

Liva Music - Songwriter



Debra Gussin

Though her career would lead Debra on a journey through television and the entertainment industry, music was always along for the ride.

Born and raised in New York, Debra earned a dual-degree in Television Production and Marketing Management from Syracuse University.

After working on the Mickey Rourke film, "Year of the Dragon," she landed at "ABC's Wide World of Sports." The compelling drama surrounding the "thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat," taught Debra what makes a great story. As a songwriter, this sense of storytelling would go on to create the vibrant scenarios of her songs.

Debra continued her television career in Los Angeles, working on numerous programs including the "Daytime Emmy Awards," "Fox Sports News," "Wolfgang Puck," and "Dr. Phil."

While working on the launch of the National Geographic Channel, one of Debra's colleagues introduced her to renowned lyricist, Marty Panzer (Barry Manilow, Kenny Rogers, Julio Iglesias, Disney).

That life-changing moment unexpectedly launched her into the wide world of songwriting.

“I enrolled in Panzer’s Master Class for lyric writing at UCLA Extension, and from that moment on, I was hooked.”

After winning the Concord Records & Barry Manilow Songwriting Scholarship - four times, Debra took a sabbatical from her television career, and left the "Dr. Phil" show to focus on songwriting full time. She went on to win numerous international songwriting contests, including the Grand Prize and Lennon Award in the prestigious John Lennon Song Contest, and was commissioned by the Federal Trade Commission to co-write catchy commercial jingles for AnnualCreditReport.com, which won the CINE Golden Eagle Award for Best Public Service Announcement.

From there, UCLA Extension commissioned her song THIS IS OUR TIME as their Official Graduation Song. The song received it's WORLD PREMIERE at Royce Hall in Los Angeles, where Erich Bergen (Jersey Boys) performed to a sold-out crowd.

TV placements soon followed as Debra's songs have recently appeared in the NBC primetime drama THE EVENT, E! Entertainment's KOURTNEY & KIM TAKE NEW YORK, the SPEED Network's NASCAR RACE HUB, and the UK's IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING. On January 28th, 2013, her song OBEY THE DJ will be featured on the primetime television show, 90210, on the CW Network.

In addition to co-writing songs with actor/composer Don Grady (My Three Sons, Disney) for his BOOMER: JazRokPop EP, Debra's lyrics have seen the lights of Off-Broadway in the short musical, THE DEPENDENTS.

She is currently the lyricist of TURMOIL! A New Musical, and continues to focus on writing songs for the pop, dance, country, and Hot AC markets.

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