

## MUSIC

## Rising Stars: From Folk to Classical to Rhythm and Blues

Voce's collection of new recordings from three young singer-songwriters

### Middle of Nowhere

Kristin Cifelli

[www.myspace.com/kristincifelli](http://www.myspace.com/kristincifelli)

[kristincifelli.com](http://kristincifelli.com)

In her third album, singer-songwriter Kristin Cifelli expands on her repertoire



of powerful yet subtle, lyric-driven songs, influenced by folk, pop and country music. With her “unforgettable voice, at times soothing and at times full of intense energy,” as one reviewer describes it, Cifelli has become a popular presence in East coast venues. This latest recording, called “Middle of Nowhere,” is set to expand her fan base nationwide. The CD will be available after Nov. 15 from cdbaby.com.

Cifelli has been featured on the Oxygen Network, the Fox 25 Morning Show and VH1, as well as in *Billboard* magazine, the *Boston Globe* and the Associated Press. She has played in legendary venues, including Boston’s Club Passim and New York’s The Bitter End.

A winner of the John Lennon Songwriting award, she has shared the stage with numerous celebrated performers, including opening for Aimee Mann with the Boston Pops at Boston’s Symphony Hall. Boston-based Cifelli is also a voice professor at the Berklee College of Music. Her father is a native of Castelpetroso in Molise, Italy.

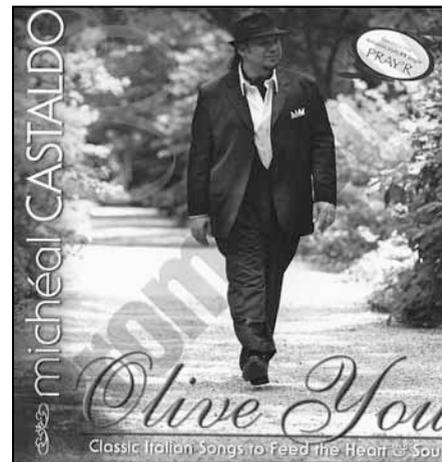
### Olive You

Micheal Castaldo

[www.michealcastaldo.com](http://www.michealcastaldo.com)

Singer, songwriter and producer Micheal Castaldo is preparing to introduce two new recordings: “Olive You: Classic Italian Songs to Feed the Heart,” and “Extravergine: A Mediterranean Christmas” on Nov. 22. A tenor, Micheal sings classical Italian songs in Italian and English, in the style of Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, and Il Divo.

His music plays on more than 40 Italian



radio stations around the world. His single titled, “Pray’r,” hit the number 1 spot on the Amazon.com classical chart.

Castaldo’s earlier critically acclaimed CD, “Aceto” was dedicated to his late father and includes 14 classic and two original Italian songs. Castaldo has also produced and written songs for Grammy winner Jose Feliciano, among others. He often performs for charitable causes, helping to raise more than \$45,000 last year.

Originally from Calabria, Castaldo was raised in Toronto, Canada and now lives in the U.S. His family’s olive groves in the foothills of Calabria continue to pro-

duce and distribute fresh olive oil at affordable prices. His new albums link the singer with his roots in the Calabrian olive groves.

### Can’t Control Myself

Gina Sicilia

[www.myspace.com/ginasicilia](http://www.myspace.com/ginasicilia)

[ginasicilia.com](http://ginasicilia.com)

The earthy, bluesy voice of singer-songwriter Gina Sicilia, 25, hit the music scene in 2007, in a debut CD called “Allow Me to Confess.” The recording earned Sicilia a nomination in the Best New Artist Debut category at the 2008 Blues Music Awards in Memphis, Tenn. As the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted, Sicilia’s voice has “impress-



sive range and depth...she’s going to get ever better with age.”

Her third album “Can’t Control Myself” is a mix of her own songs with renditions of popular Stevie Wonder and Tina Turner tunes, expanding her range into 1960s soul and Americana. The CD has already hit the About.com list of the 10 best blues albums of 2011. It is available at [ginasicilia.com](http://ginasicilia.com).

Philadelphia-based Sicilia is a Temple University graduate, whose father emigrated from southern Italy and settled in Newtown, Pa. ✘

## HISTORY

## Discovering Hawaii’s Italian Heritage

Although Italians have never been numerous in Hawaii, their contribution is part of the islands’ past and present.

Among the first Italians to visit Hawaii was Paolo Emilio Botta, who came in 1828 aboard the French ship Heros for a two month stay. The son of Carlo Botta, an Italian author, Paolo Botta’s observations of sympathetic interest regarding Hawaii were included by his father in the 1841 Italian edition of a book recounting his voyage to and experiences in Hawaii.

Some years later, Captain John Dominis, an American of Italian ancestry, sailed into Honolulu, bringing with him his New England wife and small son. An affluent sea-captain, Dominis built the finest residence in Honolulu. but on a voyage to China in 1846 to obtain furniture for his home, he disappeared at sea.

His son John Owen Dominis grew up in the elegant home his father had built and took his bride, Princess Lili’uokalani, there to live. It was her personal home for the rest of her life, and after her death it was

purchased by the Territory of Hawaii as the governor’s mansion.

The home still contains many articles associated with Lili’uokalani and the Dominis family. Located on Beretania Street near the Capitol and ‘Iolani Palace, it bears the name of Washington Place.

John Owen Dominis, a businessman of prominence, received King Kalakaua’s appointment as governor of the island of O’ahu, and then, upon his wife’s ascension to the throne, became Prince Consort of the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was a quiet man, living comfortably in the shadow of his royal wife, who relied heavily upon his wise counsel. He is one of the few non Hawaiians to be buried in the Royal Mausoleum in Nu’uanu Valley.

In the 20th Century, Italians in Hawaii have continued their traditional contributions to the varied pleasures of their fellows. A fledgling business in Hawaii in 1913 affected by the Italian genius of Henry Ginaca was the pineapple industry. Ginaca, company engineer for The

Hawaiian Pineapple Company, invented a machine for peeling and coring pineapples thus facilitating the canning process, and making that delicious fruit not only a wonderful source of trade and revenue for the Hawaiian people but a gift to the world in general.

Adding that special Italian touch of hospitality offered to tourists to Hawaii. Arthur Benaoa brought to Hawaii from Milan in 1927, became managing director of the Territorial Hotels Co., in charge of the Royal Hawaiian, the Moana and the Seaside Hotels, and the Wai’alae Golf Club. Another Italian, Domenico Moro, born in Sicily, was the leader of the Royal Hawaiian Band from 1941 to 1955, gladdening the hearts and ears of music lovers in Hawaii.

The Italian influence is obvious to one walking through Hawaiian streets lined with restaurants and pizza parlors, large and small, that waft spicy aromas on Hawaiian breezes. And those discerning folks who search beneath the surface discover other images of the Italian influences that permeate and enrich all strata of the Hawaiian lifestyle. ✘

\*Submitted by Gilda Del Signore

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