

KELLY & ELLIS

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“Leslie Ellis, having a background on Broadway, and Casey Kelly, having years of experience playing Rock-N-Roll, thrilled the Friends of the Smokies, at their annual gathering at the Swag Country Inn in North Carolina this past April. The unique versions of “Memory” from CATS and their original Nashville Sound brought smiles to the faces of guests ranging in age from 25 to 85! Wow! What a terrific performance!” - **Retired Justice Gary R. Wade and Board Member for Friends of the Smokies**

"It was an absolute pleasure having Kelly&Ellis perform at Gettysvue Polo, Golf, and Country Club. They are such a dynamic and talented duo who captivated our members and guests with their story telling and musical talents. I especially enjoyed their rendition of "Memory from CATS" and I have continued to enjoy their new hit CD *The Long Road to You*. This was a very special night at Gettysvue to witness two extremely talented people in such a intimate setting. We can't wait to have them back and do this again!" - **John McKenry, General Manager, Gettysvue Polo, Golf and Country Club, Knoxville, TN**

"Kelly&Ellis was truly a very enjoyable show. The stories they told about their life experiences in the music/entertainment industry were interesting and funny. Their accomplishments were impressive and their singing delightful. They were so harmonious singing together and beautifully powerful individually. The audience was captivated and everyone after had nothing but terrific comments praising their performance. We are so grateful to them for such a great evening!" - **Marianne Murphy, Director of Membership, The Club at Hammock Beach**

"We recently hosted an event featuring Kelly&Ellis, *The Long Road to You* for associates, friends and family and were thrilled beyond our imagination. Not only was their their world-class, musical talent captivating, their storytelling and ability to connect with the audience was genuine and touching. Whether at an upscale resort, corporate gathering or private party, Kelly&Ellis offers a unique, intimate and authentic musical experience." - **Doug Roth, Market President, BB&T, Richmond VA**

“We were extremely lucky to have Kelly&Ellis perform ‘The Long Road to You’ at The Mission Inn. Their musical talent, contagious energy, and intriguing behind-the-scenes stories not only brought the crowd to its feet, it also gave us an instant reputation in the community as the place to see and experience unique entertainment events. Kelly&Ellis supplied a lifetime of stories, a set list of hit songs, and original music that seamlessly merged to create a magical musical journey.” - **Wendy Collins, Owner The Mission Inn, Cape May, NJ**

“We were so excited to partner with Kelly&Ellis for an event at Bristol Valley Theater. Knowing the musical pedigrees of this acoustic duo, I expected stellar musicianship (and was not disappointed). Their music is wide ranging in style, from humorous country to fresh takes on Broadway and pop classics, from funky R&B flavors to the broken hearted ballads. A bonus surprise on this intimate evening with Kelly&Ellis was their casual and friendly onstage demeanor, the sometimes funny, sometimes touching, always down to earth stories that they shared between numbers. I genuinely felt they welcomed the audience to be a part of their story. Their musical harmonies mirror a relationship built on respect, humor, and a love found after years of searching.” - **Karin Bowersock, Artistic Director, Bristol Valley Theatre, Naples, NY**

“I knew how talented Kelly&Ellis were from all they have done in the past, but was taken with their current show as a duo. Not only was their musical talent brilliant but their storytelling and comedic chemistry filled the

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theater with laughter and joy and brought the audience to their feet with applause and appreciation. Kelly&Ellis hit it out of the park! We are looking forward to future events with Kelly&Ellis at The Bing Crosby Theater!" - **Sheryl Stone, Head of Talent and Marketing, The Bing Crosby Theater, Spokane, WA**

"Casey and Leslie have been knocking it out of the park for the Balsam Mountain Inn guests for 12 years. They always pack the house and keep the audience on the edge of their seats. We started with a Nashville Songwriter series but their new show, "The Long Road to You" is even more entertaining with the stories and songs from their lives." - **Bill Graham, Event Coordinator, The Balsam Mountain Inn, Balsam, NC**

"A new album by Kelly & Ellis has a quintessential sound and mass appeal to make it into your 'forever' collection of musical favorites. 'The Long Road to You,' is the musical energy behind an itinerary of intimate gatherings with fans where they share their stories in humorous dialogue and delight the audiences with songs from their past and present. These shows are catching on like wildfire through social media. They'll soothe you with songs from your past that you've been singing along to for years and will inspire you with their new releases, each telling a vivid story like the good songs seem to, and you might even be treated to a Broadway hit or two." - **Jodi Schwarzenbach, The Sarasota Post**

"Well, all I can say is.... If you were fortunate enough to take in a performance by Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis this weekend you know that you were treated to a musical presentation that surpasses most others. I don't know if I have ever experienced two people who were so "in tune" with each other as these two are. I could have stayed there another three hours. So incredibly enjoyable!!! If you ever get the chance to see them, please do yourself a favor and go. They raised my own musical awareness a few notches tonight. I sure do hope they come back to Cape May someday. I'll be there if they do!" **Rick Ferrante, WCFA 101.5 FM, Cape May, NJ**

"A beauty of an album with Country Roots and americana music with a beautiful rendition of Andrew Lloyd Webber – Memory.. a pleasant surprise from this duo." - **Fotosbluesrock.nl**

"Love it – more from this act please" - **Robert MacMillan, Nevis Radio, UK**

"Really nice sound" - **Stewart Fenwick, Celtic Music Radio, UK**

"[Tennessee Whiskey is a] Stunning track – why this is not being played all over the USA is unbelievable!" - **Stuart Cameron, East Coast FM, UK**

"New to me but I love what I hear" - **Craig Parry, Phoenix Radio, UK**

"Thanks Hotdisc for introducing me to this excellent act" - **John Andersen, Radio Maelkebotten, Denmark**

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“Lovely on the ear, great song craft and the soft vocals are a pure delight” - *Adrian Clark, Country Music Routes Internet Blog, Europe*

“I really love the vocal here. Will investigate these more.” - *Marie Crichton, BBC Radio Shropshire, UK*

“This is excellent” - *Rene Hoffman, Country Radio, Switzerland*

“The first song “An Ordinary Day” caught my attention right off the bat, with how remarkably beautiful Leslie’s voice is. Leslie’s tone and timber hit me in the same way that Karen Carpenter’s did way back when I heard her coming out of my car radio. Fabric from the same cloth, yet Leslie’s voice is totally unique with a maturity that only happens when a singer has spent a life time honing and shaping their craft.

“Casey’s voice has also matured greatly. Those of us who grew up around Casey professionally as a songwriter and performer back in the early 1970’s, will find Casey has found his voice in a new and different way. Singing in a lower register that, not only compliments him as a singer, but also when the two of them sing together, creates an incredible blend inside their harmonies.” - *Jimmy Messina, Grammy® Winning Songwriter and Producer*

“They’re fun, beautiful, heartbreaking and so much more wrapped up into a collision of genres (classic rock, Celtic, New Orleans R&B, contemporary pop, Broadway) from their careers. *The Long Road to You* is about their journey to find each other, to find their place; for the listeners, we finally found *them*.” - *Brenda Hillegas, Emore Magazine*

“In addition to the craft and skill on display here, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that Leslie Ellis' voice is easily one of my favorite musical instruments in the world. And throughout the album's thirteen tracks, Kelly's genius guitar work is undeniable” - *Randy Slovacek, The Randy Report*

“The Long Road to You wraps Kelly&Ellis’ journey - a tuneful autobiography, a slice of music history and a vision of their future - in lush, guitar-rich arrangements. We’re lucky to go along for the ride.” - *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*

“Audiences might have come to see Casey sing the hits he’d co-written for folks like Tanya Tucker (Grammy nominated “Soon”), Kenny Rogers (Grammy nominated "Anyone Who Isn't Me Tonight") and George Strait (his signature song “The Cowboy Rides Away”), but they often were charmed by his casual recollections (delivered in an almost Jimmy Stewart-like cadence) from his NYC Tin Pan Alley days to his California affiliations--with the likes of Loggins & Messina, the Nitty, Gritty Dirt Band, John Sebastian, Poco and Jackson Browne, to name a few. [Ellis’] wit, emotive vocal control and songs are completely disarming. An acoustic act, thoughtfully and tastefully presented, but refreshingly new. Think of the music as thoughtful-meets-

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electrifying. I dare say it's quite possible they're Nashville's most endearing onstage duo. Some of the best new material to come out of Nashville" - *Peter Rodman, The Peter Rodman Blog/KRNW Radio in Boulder, CO*

"[Ellis'] singing, always vibrant, is haunting" - *William A. Henry III, Time Magazine*

"Kelly&Ellis are one of those rare and wonderful unions in life, and what that does for their music and the listener is palpably wondrous. You'll hear and feel it for yourself when you indulge in this milestone CD, aptly titled *The Long Road to You*. This collection of songs is truly wonderful, beautifully sequenced and charmingly eclectic. There's a real purity about it. No big production. Just great performances, superb musicianship and terrific tunes. It's honest, fun and personal; the kind of thing that makes you feel that they're right there in the room with you. I wish they were." - *Scotty Brink, Former Program Manager, WRKO Radio, Boston, MA*

"...Leslie Ellis fills the room and stops listeners' hearts for a moment" - *The Hartford Courant*

"This is a remarkable CD. Many songs stay with me long after I've aired them." - *Steve Jerrett, of KOPN in Columbia, MO*

"I've been a long time fan of these incredible artists Leslie Ellis & Casey Kelly. Finally they have an amazing album *The Long Road to You* that captures what they have been doing on stage. Great songwriting, and performance, Bravo!!!!!" - *Wood Newton, Grammy® Winning Record Producer, Nashville, TN*

The Long Road to You provides almost one hour of pure listening pleasure. Kelly&Ellis make beautiful music together." - *Sheldon Harnick, Tony® Award Winning Broadway Lyricist and Producer*

"I have been in the booking and promoting side of the music business for 30 years. I have worked with Casey and Leslie (Kelly&Ellis) on several shows over the last 10 or 12 years. Have never been disappointed. Great writers, musicians and performers and above all great people inside and out. Pleasure to work with." - *James Lewis, Concert Promoter, Nashville, TN*

"For the past eleven years we have had the honor to be a venue for the Frank Brown International Songwriters Festival in Orange Beach, AL. During this time we been graced to meet and listen to Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis [Kelly&Ellis]. They are amazing! They always pack our house as well as anywhere they go - We went to see them at the legendary Flora-Bama two days after playing with us and it was a hard sellout. The new Kelly&Ellis CD *The Long Road to You* is a must listen and will appeal to most everyone." - *Bob Hallmark, Owner, The Tin Top Restaurant & Oyster Bar*

Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis: 'The Long Road to You'

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November 8, 2017

By Jodi Schwarzenbach

It's been a while since I've discovered new music that takes me from day to night, filling the air with an upbeat melody, enhancing carefree times when all is well. For me, that time is when the kids are home, after homework and other obligations that make up the bulk of their time. And there is that sweet spot in the beginning of the week when the laundry is caught up, weekly meals are prepped, and a couple of runs have been logged.

Progress like that deserves a backbeat and a perfect CD is key. But a good collage of music also needs to be versatile enough to soothe your frantic moments and to make you reminisce for times gone by, maybe making you put thought into movement and save a friendship if it's salvageable or ease the sting of letting go. Yes, good music can inspire you in a myriad of ways. A good album also needs to stand the test of time so that you don't fondly just think back on past musical preferences, because they are still rocking your world, albeit in your minivan, being introduced to your kids. And I suppose if your musical tastes have evolved, they should reflect your bluesy side, take note of your rocker stage, pay homage to your favorite country crooners, and give a nod to your love of great folk songs. A new album by Kelly & Ellis has a quintessential sound and mass appeal to make it into your "forever" collection of musical favorites.

Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis are the singers in the duet of Kelly & Ellis. You may not recognize their names at first, but mention some of the most celebrated country songs in American musical history and you're likely to find they either wrote or sang on many popular standards you know and have even won an impressive Grammy. For Leslie Ellis, Broadway was always the goal and after several memorable performances in major productions like "La Cage Aux Folles" and "City of Angels," she landed the lead role in "CATS" singing "Memory." She eventually became a session vocalist for Sony Music singing background for the likes of Barbra Streisand, Faith Hill, Toni Braxton, and Celine Dion. A well-timed call in the late '90s led to her singing "My Heart Will Go On" with Celine Dion for the soundtrack of "The Titanic." They went on to win a Grammy for Record of the Year.

Casey Kelly is a true career musician. His body of work is wide-reaching and well-respected in and out of the Nashville music scene. From writing signature hits for George Strait, like "The Cowboy Rides Away" and "Soon" for Tanya Tucker, to touring with Loggins & Messina, BB King, The Beach Boys and more, his songwriting and vocal skills are heralded. He almost missed a jam session at the famed Bluebird Café where Leslie Ellis was already on stage. He chose the seat next to her, the only one remaining and began warming up with some of his old songs. She knew the words to all of them. The rest is history.

Unpretentious and living as a happily married couple in Nashville has brought Kelly & Ellis to a period where they are eager to share their love story with the world. Their new release "The Long Road to You," is the musical energy behind an itinerary of intimate gatherings with fans where they share their stories in humorous dialogue and delight the audiences with songs from their past and present. These shows are catching on like

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wildfire through social media. They hope you will stop in, get cozy and folksy for a while. They'll soothe you with songs from your past that you've been singing along to for years and will inspire you with their new releases, each telling a vivid story like the good songs seem to, and you might even be treated to a Broadway hit or two. For more information on upcoming tour dates, please visit <https://www.kellyandellis.com/home>

The Randy Report First Listen: "Who Am I To Judge"

February 22, 2017

By Randy Slovacek

Stop, drop and scroll down to listen to this exclusive preview of "Who Am I To Judge?" from new acoustic duo, Kelly&Ellis. The song, from Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis' upcoming album *The Long Road to You*, is a like a musical love-child of Mary Chapin Carpenter and Brian Wilson. The hooky melody is a perfect dance partner for the independent-minded lyrics:

Religious right, or wrong?

Serious art, or porn?

And as for same-sex bride and groom

Is it anybody's business who does what with whom?

Who am I to judge?

Who am I to say what anybody does?

If it works for them, then I'm asking you my friend,

Who am I to judge?

A bit about how these two rambled and roamed down *The Long Road to You*: After graduating from the prestigious Carnegie-Mellon University with a degree in acting and music, Leslie Ellis journeyed from Broadway (City of Angels, Cats, Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber) to Berkley to Nashville, picking up a Grammy® Award along the way for her vocal contributions to Celine Dion's mega-hit "My Heart Will Go On."

Casey Kelly's college years were spent opening arena concerts for major artists; a stint writing at the hit making factories at 1650 Broadway and the Brill Building; touring with Loggins & Messina, The Beach Boys and BB King; and writing hit songs (Grammy nominated #1 "Anyone Who Isn't Me Tonight" recorded by Kenny Rogers & Dottie West, George Strait staple "The Cowboy Rides Away," Tanya Tucker's "Soon").

Thematically, this unique collection of songs frames the duo's well-travelled talents as the diverse ingredients they are. Americana, Celtic, R&B, Broadway, pop and country meld effortlessly allowing Kelly&Ellis to lay claim to their own unique musical space, proving that artful songwriting and musical talent is always a winning recipe.

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Among the winning new works, "I Just Don't Understand It," "An Ordinary Day," and "(I Ain't Just) A Pretty Face" are highlights showcasing range as well unmistakable chemistry.

In addition to the craft and skill on display here, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that Leslie Ellis' voice is easily one of my favorite musical instruments in the world. And throughout the album's thirteen tracks, Kelly's genius guitar work is undeniable.

Along with new songs, both artists re-visit and re-invent past musical triumphs. Ellis' lithe vocals take flight over a steady, earthy drum beat on "My Heart Will Go On," while she folds her country years back into a luscious and rich renewal of "Memory" from her Cats days. Kelly's take on "The Cowboy Rides Away" reveals a life well-lived with a vocal that feels

as warm and comfortable as my favorite 20 year old cowboy boots; and the duo's teaming on "Anyone Who Isn't Me Tonight" bounces and beams with sass for days.

Elmore Magazine, The Long Road to You Review

February 24, 2017

By Brenda Hillegas

For every duo that makes it big, there are ten more hoping to follow in their footsteps. For Leslie Ellis and Casey Kelly, "fame" is something they have both experienced before meeting. The experience of "fate" however, took its time to work some magic and have the two musicians collide at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville.

Leslie Ellis took on Broadway (which is very evident in her vocals on *The Long Road to You*). She landed roles in *La Cage Aux Folles*, *City of Angels* and *CATS*. She was also writing her own songs and performing them around New York City. Eventually, she moved to Santa Cruz, CA where a gig as a session vocalist for Sony Music found her singing demos and background for Céline Dion, Barbra Streisand, Faith Hill and Toni Braxton. In 1998, the Grammy for Record of the Year went to "My Heart Will Go On" from the movie *Titanic*— Ellis was a part of that song. A country-road, ballad version of the song can be heard on *The Long Road to You*.

Casey Kelly had similar experiences- his song "The Cowboy Rides Away" became a hit for George Strait, he toured with Loggins & Messina, the Beach Boys, BB King; he co-wrote Grammy nominated #1 hit, "Anyone Who Isn't Me Tonight," recorded by Kenny Rogers & Dottie West.

Sadly, both Ellis and Casey experienced breakups in their marriages and found themselves living in Nashville. After meeting, they lifted each other up, inspired each other, wrote together. *The Long Road To You* has all the

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components one would expect from a duo with backgrounds such as theirs— humor, sadness, strength and gratitude. Specs of their past (personal and professional) are heard throughout this album. Track eight, “Just Ask Me,” is the perfect example of how well these two work together. They’re fun, beautiful, heartbreaking and so much more wrapped up into a collision of genres (classic rock, Celtic, New Orleans R&B, contemporary pop, Broadway) from their careers.

The Long Road to You is about their journey to find each other, to find their place; for the listeners, we finally found *them*.

FIRST LISTEN: New Music from Country Hitmakers Kelly & Ellis

February 9, 2017

By Pat Moran

Acoustic Guitar Magazine

Grammy®-nominated country-and-pop duo return with lush, guitar-rich arrangements

Before recording *The Long Road to You*, Casey Kelly and Leslie Ellis’ debut as Kelly & Ellis, the husband-and-wife duo had each scored a stream of accomplishments, including country hits, a showstopper from the musical *CATS*, and a contribution to the Academy Award-winning film “*Titanic*.”

Together, they revisit these triumphs. “The Cowboy Song” George Strait’s signature hit penned by Kelly, is recast as a forlorn waltz borne on Kelly’s ringing cantina guitar and Ellis’ warm harmonies. “Anyone Who Isn’t Me Tonight,” Kelly’s Grammy-nominated number one for Kenny Rogers and Dottie West, rides scampering acoustics as Kelly’s declaration of love receives playful pinpricks from Ellis’ saucy interjections.

“Memory,” Ellis’ breakout number from her Broadway days, gets an Americana makeover with coiling guitars that merge front porch picking with delicate arpeggios. A revamping of Ellis and Celine Dion’s Grammy-and-Oscar-winning “My Heart Will Go On,” adds winding acoustics to sumptuous orchestration.

The pair also turns voice and guitars to new tunes. “Who Am I to Judge” wraps a plea for tolerance in the twanging clangor of slipknot-picked guitars. Alliterative wordplay joins percussive Spanish-flavored guitar to propel “I Just Don’t Understand It.” “An Ordinary Day” jaunts along on jostling acoustics and waves of vibrato.

The Long Road to You wraps Kelly & Ellis’ journey—a tuneful autobiography, a slice of music history and a vision of their future—in lush, guitar-rich arrangements. Were lucky to go along for the ride.