



1 Julia Kasdorf, 2017 Photo by
Tacy Judd

Julia Kasdorf gets to play music for a living. How does she do this? She gives private lessons on guitar and piano, and performs live at the many wineries and breweries in the DC area. She says music was the only thing she stuck to since she was 15. She tried her hand at being a secretary, a door-to-door saleswoman, a migrant farm worker, and computer repair person. Julia could never see herself in a typical 9-5 scene, and after years of world wandering, playing live music was her only marketable skill.

Julia was raised on Peter, Paul, & Mary and the Carter Family. She found her way to AC/DC, Miles Davis, Alan Toussaint, David Bowie Joni Mitchell, & the Stax Record catalog. Wherever Julia went, music was always the focus. There've punk bands in San Francisco, a stint at an Okinawan hotel resort where all the guests wanted to hear were 70s pop tunes, time in DC playing bass for big band Swing Shift, and years co-leading the award-winning DC alt-country band One Horse Town. When she writes or performs a song, it's clear that wide and deep musical influences are alive in her music.

During the 2000s, while she and her husband, Lynn Kasdorf, top pedal steel man in the region, were raising a family, Julia also managed to produce two fine rock and roll tracks, albeit on differing ends of the cultural spectrum. "Living in Light of God" expressed her hope that she could trust her higher power to pull some of her load. You can see the video on Julia's website. She moved from that path to try to a more practical view of the world, and wrote & recorded "Thin Blue Veil", a driving electric guitar rocker that doesn't sugarcoat the message. Producer Bob Holmcrans pulled in musicians from around the country, including Russ "Trey Anastasio Band" Lawton on drums. You can hear the track on Julia's website.

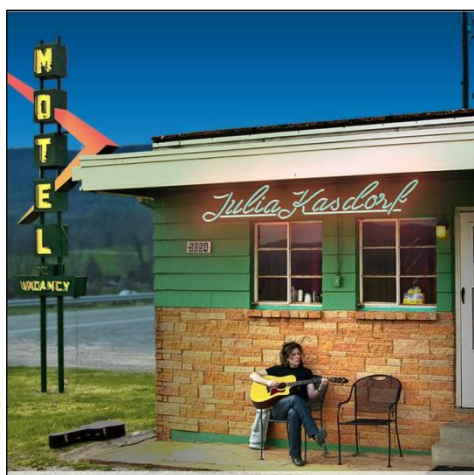
One of the highlights of 2016 was participating in a David Bowie Tribute at the Fillmore in Silver Spring, MD. When Julia heard about the show, she reached out to the producer and basically gave him no choice to but let participate and honor her top

musical hero. “Definitely one of the coolest gigs of my life! To be others like me who *love* that man,” she says.

Now Julia is playing solo. She spent 2017 recording **Motel**, her personal expression of what it sounds like to be a rock n roller growing up in a bluegrass house who then went on to thoroughly explore Motown and honky-tonk. One of the perplexities she faced on this record is how disparate it is from song to song, since Julia doesn’t write in a certain style. But truly the consistency comes from who Julia is, and how her particular focus on groove and visceral lyrics inhabits each song.



2 Fillmore Silver Spring, 2016 Photo by Jay Tamangan



3 Cover art for "Motel" by Dick Bangham. Photo by Tacy Judd.

Julia invited local legends & friends Jon Carroll –long time keyboardist for Mary Chapin Carpenter, Mike Ault – worldwide demo man for PRS guitars, Lynn Kasdorf on pedal steel, Buddy Dunlap, and Gary Ferguson, both of flat-top picking fame, to help bring her sound to life. “Somethings didn’t quite work out, and I painted myself into a couple of corners. There were times when I absolutely didn’t know what to do and wished like heck I had a producer to tell me!” she admits “but I picked the right musicians and **Motel** kicks and stomps, just like I wanted it to.”

Julia feared that the weak point of the album might be her singing. With the help of Les “Nitty Gritty Dirt Band” Thompson, she got away from the kind of pushy delivery she’d developed playing live shows, and, cozying up to the mic with a boosted signal in her “ear goggles”, found a way to just let the words slip out like honey. Julia was surprised and gratified by the results, having unexpectedly discovered a new gentle subtlety in her voice. “I knew that in the process of making **Motel** I’d learn a lot about myself, about what I wanted to say, about how I wanted to say it. After all the music I’ve learned and absorbed over the years, I thought something pretty cool might happen.”

Julia currently plays solo gigs on a regular basis all over the DC region and looking to expand her performance and teaching schedule. She also fronts her alt-country band, Julia & the Ready Boys, so she can deliver her songs the way she hears them in her head. She says “I recorded **Motel** because I had something to say about music – how gritty and visceral and life-telling it can be. I do believe I have said it. “



4Julia sitting in with Radney Foster 2015 Photo by Cliff Owen