

# **Laura Berard Huval**

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#### **BRIEF BIO**

<u>Laura Huval</u> is a Grammy nominated recording artist and producer, an award-winning, songwriter, vocalist, musician, member and band manager of the 2021 Grammy nominated Group <u>Sweet Cecilia</u>, story-teller, cultural advocate, music mentor, music minister, music educator, keynote speaker, author, a wife and mother, co-founder of the <u>Al Berard Memorial Music Foundation</u>, and the founder of <u>Joyful Noise Ministries</u>. She has used all of her skills to help cultivate meaningful networks within the community, as well as spreading the culture of Louisiana throughout North America with a creative and innovative spirit.

#### Education

**2016**- Teacher of Talented Music Certification (State of Louisiana)

**2004**- Louisiana State University Graduate (B.S. Secondary Education Social Studies/Minor History) (Baton Rouge, LA)

**2000**- Graduate of Cecilia High School (Salutatorian)

# **MUSIC AND THE ARTS**

### **MUSIC PROJECTS:**

2014- Present: Manager and Band Member for Sweet Cecilia and Laura Huval Music

- Recording Academy Member
- Managing and booking all live performances
- Organizing all travel arrangements
- PR & Marketing for all shows
- Social Media Manager and Content Creator
- Bookkeeper
- Managing album production and pressing of Compact Discs and Digital Distribution
- Creating LLCs and Publishing Companies
- Website Master and Designer
- Grammy Nomination 2021- Best Regional Roots Album for A Tribute to Al Berard

#### 2019-Present: Founder of Joyful Noise Ministries (Music Ministry and Keynote Speaker)

- Booking all live performances and speaking engagements
- Organizing all travel arrangements
- PR & Marketing for all appearances
- Managing album production and pressing of Compact Discs and Digital Distribution;
- Creating LLCs and Publishing Companies
- Website Creator and Designer
- Created YouTube Channel
- Social Media Manager

#### 2000-Present: Music Minister at St. Joseph Church Parish (Cecilia, LA)

 Providing music for Sunday masses, Youth Choir Director, Youth Mass Music Minister, Currently serving as the Music Director

### Professional Accomplishments and Recognition:

2021: Grammy Nominated with the band Sweet Cecilia for "Best Regional Roots Album"

2021: Nominated for Best of the Beat Awards by OffBEAT Magazine with Sweet Cecilia for "Best Cajun Artist" and "Best Cajun Album; A Tribute to Al Berard"

2021: Laura Huval- Nominated for Best of the Beat Awards by Off BEAT Magazine for "Best Gospel Artist" and "Best Country/Folk/Singer-Songwriter Artist"

2021: Bishop's Serval Medal Honoree (Diocese of Lafayette; Bishop Deshotel) 2021

2020: Nominee as Governor for National Recording Academy Board (Memphis Chapter)

2020: Published by Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) (original works published)

2020: Sweet Cecilia and Laura Huval Music featured on "KLFY" Acadiana Music Spotlight

2019: Times of Acadiana Best Country Band (2nd Place; Sweet Cecilia)

2018: Times of Acadiana Best Country Band (2nd Place; Sweet Cecilia)

2018: Laura Huval-Selected for Lafavette Storytellers Event (Acadiana Center for the Arts)

2017: Best of the Beat Awards; OffBeat Magazine- "Best Country/Folk/Singer-Songwriter" Artist (Sweet Cecilia)

2017: Best of the Beat Awards; OffBeat Magazine- "Best Country/Folk/Singer-Songwriter" Album (Sweet Cecilia)

2017: USA Today- Story on Sweet Cecilia, featuring song written by Laura Huval, "Red Bird Flies"

2014-2015: St. Genevieve Educator of the Year

2014: Background Vocalist on Grammy Nominated Album, "Light the Stars" by Bonsoir, Catin

2014: Sweet Cecilia invited to sing the National Anthem for the Louisiana State House of Representatives

2013: Music Ambassador Award- State of Louisiana (Office of Lt. Governor) (Berard Family Band)

2013-Present: Nominee for Lafayette Education Foundation Teacher of the Year (Annually nominated by students)

2009-2010: Cecilia High School Teacher of the Year

# Film/TV/Commercials: (Selected Appearances)

- 2020- Sweet Cecilia- Featured on the opening credits of "KLFY" News Video
- 2020- Laura Huval- Album Review for "It's Never Too Late" in OffBeat Magazine
- 2019- Music video "Dans les Grands Chemins" by Zachary Richard
- 2018- Sweet Cecilia- "The Guidry Brothers" featured on COX Communications Commercial
- 2012- Voice Acting in movie "You're in Charge" by Tom Kreuger
- 2012- Music video "Laisse les Vent Soueffler" for legendary Cajun musician, Zachary Richard

# Selected Musical Appearances with Sweet Cecilia/Al Berard Family Band:

- The Fox Mountain Country Music Festival (Berwick, Nova Scotia, Canada)
- Britannia Hall (Prince Edward Island, Canada)
- New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (New Orleans, LA)
- Festival Acadiens et Creoles (Lafayette, LA)
- Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival (Breaux Bridge, LA)
- Atchafalaya Basin Festival (Henderson, LA)
- Omelet Festival (Abbeville, LA)
- Festival Acadiens (Clare, Nova Scotia, Canada)
- French Quarter Festival (New Orleans, LA)
- Crowley Opera House (Crowley, LA)
- Ogden Museum Music Series (New Orleans, LA)
- St. Louis Cathedral Christmas Concert (New Orleans, LA)
- Etouffee Festival (Arnaudville, LA)
- Potluck & Poison Ivy Music Series (Little Rock, Arkansas)
- Swamp Romp Music Series (Kettering, Ohio)
- SOLO Song Writers Festival (Lafayette, LA)
- Mudbug Madness Festival (Shreveport, LA)
- Teche Center for the Arts Concerts (Breaux Bridge, LA)
- Festival of Lights Oil Center (Lafayette, LA)
- Shake Your Trail Feather (Breaux Bridge, LA)
- Downtown Alive (Lafayette, LA)
- Slemco Annual Meeting (Cajundome, Lafayette, LA)
- Festival International (Lafayette, LA)

# **CULTURE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

#### 2021 to Present- Board Member for St. Martin Parish Tourist Commission

Offer new and innovative ways to encourage tourism in St. Martin Parish and Acadiana.

#### 2019-Present: Co-Founder of Annual "Fete de la Musique Louisiane" (Volunteer Position)

- Created the event with the Cecilia et Les Alentours Cultural District
- Organized meetings with LA Tourism Office and St. Martin Parish Tourism to promote the event
- Created press releases and maintained the Social Media Page (Marketing/PR), with assistance from St. Martin Parish Tourism.
- Created the virtual festival for 2020
- Organized live segment for "KLFY" Passe Patout Morning Show highlighting St. Martin Parish Musicians, Elected Officials, Business Owners, and Tourism Office
- Personally contacting musicians to have them participate and organizing "Virtual" Music Festival

# 2018 to Present: Co-Chair of the <u>Cecilia et Les Alentours Cultural District</u> in Cecilia, LA (Volunteer Position)

- Organizing creative cultural events throughout St. Martin Parish
- PR & Marketing
- Social Media Manager
- Organized live segment for "KLFY" Passe Patout Morning Show (2018) showcasing musicians, artists, and business owners;
- Hosted and Facilitated "Creative Placemaking" events throughout St. Martin Parish
- Corridor des Arts Core Team Member
- Managing Cycle Zydeco Hospitality Events in the Cecilia area
- Organized a Cultural Music Exchange with musicians from Little Rock, Arkansas
- Booking musical acts for various events throughout St. Martin Parish
- Networking with neighboring cultural districts and the Lt. Governor's Office to broaden cultural outreach
- Communicating with parish officials on all events and activities in the Cultural District.

# 2014 to Present: Co-Founder of the Al Berard Memorial Music Fund at Community Foundation of Acadiana (CFA) (Volunteer Position) <a href="https://cfacadiana.org/alberard">https://cfacadiana.org/alberard</a>

- Managed fundraising campaigns through festivals and mail-out campaigns (The fund has granted \$80,000 to local music and arts organizations)
- Making Grant Recommendations to Organizations and sending information to CFA.
- Maintaining a fiscally responsible fund

### 2014-2016: Director of the Al Berard Music Festival (Volunteer Position)

- Programming and Booking all bands; organizing vendors
- Website Master and Design
- Acquired Sponsorships
- PR & Marketing for Festivals
- Acquired all proper licenses and insurance for events
- Delegated responsibilities to volunteers and board members
- Applying and receiving a grant from St. Landry Parish Tourism
- Teaming with St. Martin Parish Tourism to promote the event

# **Community Involvement:**

- Volunteering for many local organizations
- Performing for numerous benefits, funerals, Church events, School events, Nursing Home, Veterans Day programs, etc (Pro-Bono)
- Hosted exchange students from Brazil, Germany, and Venezuela
- Partnering with Atelier de la Nature to supply musicians for events during the year
- Working with parish government on how to best utilize space within the Cecilia Civic Center
- Serving on committees for Teche Center for the Arts (Breaux Bridge) and donating items for silent auction events

# **Formal Teaching Experience:**

**2012-Present:** Music Teacher; St. Genevieve School (Lafayette, LA) (2014-2015 Educator of the Year)

**2005-2011:** Social Studies Classroom Teacher; Cecilia High School (2009-2010 Teacher of the Year) (Cecilia High School)