

The 'Wind' Cries Eileen

To borrow from Donny & Marie, Eileen Bernstein is a little bit country and a little bit rock 'n' roll.

A Columbia mother of two and a singer-songwriter, Ms. Bernstein has just released a CD titled "The Wind Is Gone." Ms. Bernstein wrote or co-wrote all 13 tracks on the CD, and sang the lead vocals.

Taking four years to complete, "The Wind Is Gone" is inspired by the works of Sheryl Crow, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Joni Mitchell. It is a combination of country, pop and rock, with lyrics covering a wide range of topics and emotions that "everyone can relate to," Ms. Bernstein said.

Ms. Bernstein, 45, became interested in music at an early age. She studied classical piano, upright bass and flute as a youngster. As an adult, she taught herself guitar.

"I fooled around as a kid and would make up songs on the piano and write the sheet music out," Ms. Bernstein said. "Then, I would play it for my piano teacher."

In May of 2004, one of her songs, "She's Got Her Way," won "Song of the Year" honors in the international songwriting competition in the country music category. The contest was sponsored by VH-1's Save the Music Foundation.

When she's not writing or performing music, Ms. Bernstein, a member of Columbia's Calah Congregation, works at Eileen Bernstein Translation, the business she founded last year to translate documents into Chinese, Spanish and French.

But her passion for music is never far from sight. "I'm always writing more," she said. □



Eileen Bernstein: New CD inspired by Sheryl Crow, Joni Mitchell and Mary Chapin Carpenter

"The Wind is Gone" is available at cdbaby.com for \$12.97. Individual tracks can be downloaded at digstation.com.

— Rochelle Eisenberg