

# Singer/songwriter Bari Koral plays Gallery Lounge

By **KAREN PLOTT**  
Advertising Manager

Penn State Harrisburg was treated to a very special performance by singer/songwriter Bari Koral at the Gallery Lounge on March 30. Koral is an independent artist from New York who rapidly developed a significant fan base through her infectious music and her sweet and witty personality.

Most independent artists never reach success and recognition as Koral has. She was voted one of the best acts of the year by "Newsday" and was picked as one of the most likely to succeed by Village Voice. Her single, "In the Beginning," is currently on MTV in Europe and she has opened for many acts including Joan Osborne, Lisa Loeb and Lenny Kravitz. Recently, she was invited to perform live at a New Year's Eve special on cable broadcast from Disney World with The Doobie Brothers and cast members from Saturday Night Live. The show was seen in millions of homes across America.

Koral is known to be compared to Jewel for her powerfully rich voice, chic and urban style and poetic lyrics. The influences of Chrissie Hynde and Patti Smith can also be detected in her music through her seductive tones.

"I like Chrissie Hynde and Patti Smith, because I like women with attitude, confidence, who are great writers and in general just really rock," said Bari.

Koral's music reflects a lot of her personality and her past experiences that shape who she is today. Her voice is strong, like she is, but there is also vulnerable sentiment and sweetness in her music.

"When I was younger I had physical limitations with my legs, which really forced me to be strong and take a lot of pain. Because of this, I focused inward and found strength," said Koral.

She has also been compared to the infamous Carrie

Bradshaw, the stylish, independent and sexy star of "Sex and the City" played by Sarah Jessica Parker.

"My vibe is smart, but I'm not afraid to make a mistake. I am single, always trying to be fashionable and a rockstar in training," said Koral.

An element of Koral's music that makes her even more special is that she writes her own songs based on the little things in her life that make her happy or that have had impact on her. For instance, she wrote a charming song called "One Room Castle" about a cramped and way too expensive New York apartment she shared with an old boyfriend. The lyrics of the song paint the experience of living in the apartment with all of its negativities, but in the end it was worth it, because they were together.

Koral currently has two albums produced. Her first album is titled "Cloudwalking," and the second album is titled, "Joy," which was produced by Jimmy Bralower who has also produced for artists Madonna, Peter Gabriel and Jennifer Page. Koral wrote every song on the album.

"When I write my songs, a lot of the time it is a spontaneous process, and the result ends up to be about my life and what is on my subconscious," says Koral. "A lot of what you write is also what you're not writing as well."

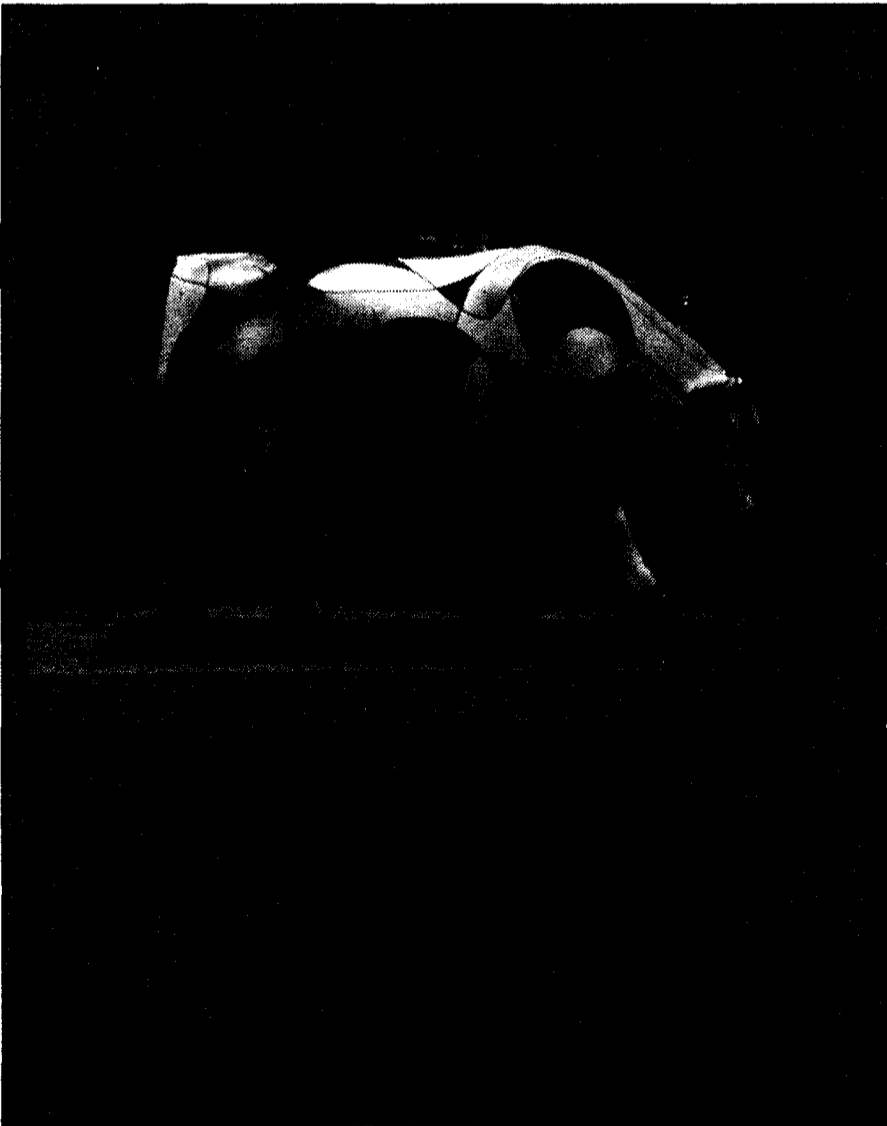
Koral definitely has the ability to mesmerize her audience and keep them captive. Her music is inspirational, uplifting and beautiful - a definite must hear. She is correct in believing she has a lot to offer the world with her music. As for the future, she dreams big.

"I want my music to go far, why not? I feel I have something nice to say and the more people to inspire the merrier."

For more about Koral and to hear her music visit [www.barikoral.com](http://www.barikoral.com) or [www.houseofwally.com](http://www.houseofwally.com).



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