By Cathy Dausman

Music to Her Ears



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WHETHER YOU'RE MOVING

Laura Zucker

Photo Cathy Dausman

arning the West Coast Song- right thing at the right time, allowing writers' Association award for Best Song of the Year (Berkeley chapter) for "A Thousand Kisses Zucker's ears. This is Zucker's fourth local win in six years; she has also earned recognition at best song playoffs in 2007, 2009, and 2010.

Zucker was a Kerrville, Texas New Folk finalist twice and a finalist in the Mountain Stage New Song contest, and the Public Domain Foundation's Music to Life contest. The Lafayette resident and mother of three co-manages a WCSA Lafayette chapter with Laura Whitmore, while working at Lamorinda Music, teaching guitar, vocals, piano and songwriting. Due to conflict of interest she does not compete in Lafayette.

Zucker came late to songwriting, and indeed, even to the west coast. "I'm from New Jersey, and lived there media." most of my life, attended college and law school (both times at Rutgers from folk to blues, Latin, pop and University), practiced law, had my three kids there and became a stay-athome parent," Zucker said. "I only really started writing in earnest in 2005, right after I moved to California," she said.

She has taught at Lamorinda Music since the day it opened. "The cause she does what she loves. owners, (John and Colleen Mc-Cormick) and I had kids in the a smile. Acalanes Jazz Ensemble," Zucker said

Zucker they were leasing space for see Zucker perform "A Thousand the store, she offered to review the Kisses Shy," visit http://www.west-

me the flexibility to be available to my kids," Zucker said. So how does a former litigator

Shy" must be music to Laura switch to becoming a singer/songwriter? Zucker explained both songwriting and writing legal briefs "can be reduced to a series of facts presented as a story told with emotion, and designed to appeal to a specific audience."

> Zucker feels she's grown professionally since her first award. "I love, love, love performing," Zucker said, but although there has "never been a better time for musicians to get their music out," she realistically admits that it is the "worst time for musicians to get paid."

> The best-case scenario, Zucker said "would be for me to sell some songs to other performers, or have songs placed in TV, film or other

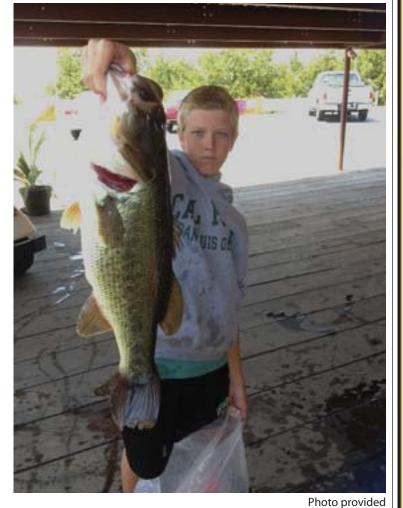
> Zucker's songs run the gamut jazz. She calls her style "eclectic acoustic," or "James Taylor meets Cole Porter, and asks Etta James and [Antonio Carlos] Jobim ('The Girl from Ipanema') to sit in." Meanwhile, the singer/songwriter is content with her more modest income be-

"I have no choice," she said with

Zucker and Best Song winners from other chapters perform at Berke-When Colleen McCormick told ley's Freight and Salvage Aug. 23. To lease. McCormick then asked if coastsongwriters.org/chapters/berke-

Zucker wanted to teach. "It was the ley/best-songs/a-thousand-kisses-shy.

Award Winning Fisherman



professional in a boat with a live C. Tyson.

oon to be eighth grader at Stan- well for holding the fish for a six Nev Middle School, Jed Wood and a half hour period starting at 6 of Lafayette, came in first place at a.m. His proud father, Ned Wood, a recent Pro-Am Bass Tournament says son Jed "has a passion for it." at Russo's Marina on Bethel Island, The 13-year-old even has a small catching the largest bass in the tour- business teaching other youngsters nament at over 7.5 pounds. More how to fish. Look for the awardthan 70 kids participated in the winning fisherman at the Lafayette event and he was the youngest. Reservoir, San Pablo Reservoir or Each amateur was paired with a at the Moraga Country Club ponds.

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