

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

## **GoGirls music festival moves to La Jolla**

By: PAM KRAGEN - Staff Writer

The GoGirlsMusicFest 2005 returns this weekend with a new location and new band lineup, but its organizer says it will still offer the same focus of featuring the top independent women musicians in Southern California.

Kim DiVincenzo, who is performing on the bill and is coordinating this year's festival, said the sixth annual festival has moved in a new direction.

In past years, GoGirls was held at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge in San Diego, but the venue was only available for GoGirls on Thursday nights, and its somewhat isolated location made it difficult to draw in foot traffic. So this year, DiVincenzo said she shopped around for a new location that would allow the concert to take place on a weekend, when more people might be available to attend, and in an urban location. The answer was La Jolla's Hard Rock Cafe.

"It is right in the middle of a great area, and we would be able to draw people who were just hanging around town or not planning at first on going," she said. "The Hard Rock has a great atmosphere as well. I love the vibe there. It appeals to all ages and all walks of life. They also have a great stage setup."

DiVincenzo said she hopes to attract 200 to 500 people during the course of the evening.

"We want to make it a huge success. We hope to pack the place all night long," she said.

This year's festival, which will benefit the Lynn Cohen Foundation for ovarian cancer research, will be hosted by San Diego singer/songwriter Pete Thurston. There are nine acts on the bill.

Rock singer/songwriter DiVincenzo, who moved to San Diego about a year ago from her native Massachusetts, is a regular featured performer at San Diego coffeehouses, including Lestat's West, Twigg's, Claire de Lune and Hot Java Cafe. Now working on her next album with record producer Keith Orfanides, DiVincenzo said her style has been compared to that of Michelle Branch, Jewel and Mazzy Star. She said her musical influences are Jeff Buckley, Radiohead, Fiona Apple, Ryan Adams, Sara Harmer and Dave Matthews.

Also featured on the program are Renata Youngblood, a San Diego singer and fingerpicking guitarist; folk singer Annie Bethancourt; Victoria Robertson, former Miss USO and a Best New Artist 2005 nominee at the San Diego Music Awards; DropJoy, a San Diego rock trio headed by Nicki Walker; Pi, an L.A.-based solo artist; Evan Bethany, a San Diego singer/songwriter now working on her debut CD; solo artist Ren Daversa, formerly of Good China; and Mermaid's Journey, the San Diego duo of Jennifer Evans and Jim Beggs.

**GoGirlsMusicFest 2005**  
**When: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8**  
**Where: Hard Rock Cafe, 909**  
**Prospect St., La Jolla**  
**Tickets: \$6**  
**Info: (858) 525-2632**  
**Web:**  
**[www.gogirlsmusicfest.com](http://www.gogirlsmusicfest.com)**