

[back to article](#)

GoUpstate.com

Artists collaborate on album that 'Kills Cancer'

*By Dan Armonaitis
For the Herald-Journal*

Published: Sunday, July 12, 2009 at 3:15 a.m.

When her best friend Cathy Cash was diagnosed with appendiceal cancer last October, Lynn McClure began thinking of ways she could help.

"The treatment for this rare disease is very expensive, and her bills are racking up," McClure said. "And Cathy doesn't have insurance, so it's very difficult."

Realizing Cash's longtime passion for writing songs and playing guitar, McClure and her husband, Stuart, decided that music was the answer.

"Our initial thought was to have Cathy and her brothers record a couple of songs to offer in return for a dollar or two," Stuart McClure said. "We had no idea it would turn into what it did."

But after the McClures approached area musician-producer Matt Ranck with the idea, it blossomed into a full-length album supported by an impressive array of artists that includes major recording stars Nanci Griffith and Todd Snider.

"This Song Kills Cancer" is a 20-song album available as an mp3 download with a donation of \$7 or more at www.thissongkillscancer.org. It also includes tracks by Ranck, Peter Cooper, David Ezell, Fayssoux McLean and others.

"Out of a very small seed sprang a very good compilation," Ranck said. "I had never met Cathy before, but I knew Stuart and Lynn and knew how important it was to them."

The album features a few original tunes performed by Cash and her brothers David and Tony Giles that stack up nicely next to the material by the career musicians on the collection.

"These are gifted amateurs," Ranck said. "These aren't people who just sit by the fireside and are like, 'Yeah, I can play "Smoke on the Water" on my acoustic guitar.' These are folks that have spent lots of time making music, even if it wasn't to play professionally. I was humbled when we went through the recording process.

"In fact, when I make my next album, I may be ringing Tony's phone to see if I can cover one of his songs."

Griffith and Snider's contributions are rare recordings that can't be found anywhere else. "Home on the Radio" by Griffith is a studio demo of a song that previously appeared only as a live track on a DVD, while Snider offers an emotional solo acoustic performance of an album track called "Play a Train Song."



Photo provided

Several high-profile artists have donated their music to ease the costs of Cathy Cash's appendiceal cancer.

"If you think you're a Nanci Griffith completist and have everything, well, you don't have it all unless you've got this," said Cooper, who was responsible for bringing aboard the two highest-profile artists on the album. "And the same goes for the Todd song. ... Overall, this is a collection that's not just for a good purpose, but it's a good record, period. This is something that I would certainly purchase if it was a retail endeavor that was out for no other reason than to make money for a record label."

Cooper's recordings on the album include a song from his collaborative release with Eric Brace, along with two original songs from an upcoming project with pedal steel legend Lloyd Green.

As Cash continues to receive treatment from the Gibbs Cancer Center at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, the McClures remain appreciative of the musicians who contributed to the project and those who have already made monetary donations to the cause.

"These people did this out of the goodness of their hearts, and as far as I'm concerned, they're all heroes," Lynn McClure said. "Cathy is overwhelmed and just touched by all the generosity. She keeps saying, 'They don't even know me.' "

Those who want to make an anonymous donation without a music download can do so at any branch of Arthur State Bank or by check or money order payable to This Song Kills Cancer c/o Arthur State Bank, P.O. Box 1360, Roebuck, SC 29376.

