

## LAREAU RELEASES CHARITY CHRISTMAS SINGLE

By Nicholas L. Dean, ndean@post-journal.com

11/18/2007 - Lareau's members love to make music, which is why there was little hesitation when the head of the Jamestown-based band's record label asked the group to tackle doing a holiday-themed tune.

Just recently released as a single, "You're My Christmas" is expected to receive airplay around the country during the coming holiday season — due in part to the successes Lareau's members have seen since the release of their debut full-length, "Changes."

Not a carol or a cover of any sort, "You're My Christmas" is an original Christmas song in the style of Lareau — which is to say, it's a solid and slick, well-produced rock track aimed at an adult contemporary radio audience. All proceeds from the track will go to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

"Larry came over to my house and played what he and his wife had been working on. They just jammed through it," said Lareau drummer Darrin Payne of frontman Larry Lareau's initial demo. "I knew right then and there that we had a song we could work with, so we answered back to the label that 'Okay, we'll develop it and see what we come up with.'"

At three and a half minutes exactly, the finished product is as much an appreciation of the December holiday as it is an ode to a loved one — with the end line: "You make Christmas everyday/ You're my Christmas, anyway."

"I had a lot of thoughts about my father when I was writing," Lareau said of the song. "He was a man who wasn't happy unless he was doing stuff for other people and giving to the community. His wish was always for everybody else, for their dreams to come true. In a way, it's kind of a song for my dad, but I sat down and wrote it with my wife so there's some cute wordplay in it that works in that respect."

A sextet with members in the greater Jamestown and Warren, Pa. area, Lareau is comprised of guitarists Pete Gool and Chris Saxton, bassist Roger Christopherson and keyboardist Anthony Brown, in addition to Lareau and Payne.



*The Jamestown-based band Lareau recently released a Christmas-themed single, with proceeds from the sale of the song going to charity.*

Though "Changes" has taken the band throughout the country, garnered them positive critical praise and ranked highly on major adult contemporary charts, Lareau's members continue to live locally because of the resources and conveniences this area has to offer.

"It's not killing us financially," Lareau said. "From Warren, we're right in the middle of all these big cities and it's basically a cheap place to live. It's easy to get to Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Washington and New York City's not that far either. Plus, you've got a top-notch studio like AllSound. We get a lot of personal attention there."

With another single from "Changes" scheduled to hit radio in January, Payne and Lareau said the band is readying to tour in 2008 — as well as begin the preparations for their follow-up album on Warrior/Universal Records.

"I would say that the official statement about Lareau is that Lareau loves original music and is always looking for original bands that want to play with us," Payne said of future gigs. "We did a lot of acoustic performances last year in Jamestown and we want to do a lot more of those coming up here in 2008. If we could play a show every night of the week in Jamestown, we would."