

## A woman on a mission

Rebecca Torrellas is in pursuit of a rock 'n roll dream

By KELLY PREISER  
THE BATTALION

From the time Rebecca Torrellas was a young girl, she knew she would end up in show business. "I've had an interest in music since I was four," Torrellas said. "I'd write songs in Spanish at the time) and my cousins and I would perform them in shows for our family."

Torrellas was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and began performing as a dancer in a children's program in Puerto Rico at age six.

Torrellas moved to Texas when she was nine years old. She attended Texas A&M and graduated in 1998 with a journalism degree and currently works in Austin as a marketing and public relations coordinator, but said her goal is to have a career in music.

"I can't imagine myself doing anything other than my life with as much passion as I have doing music," Torrellas said.

Torrellas began her career in the music business in 1996 when a friend heard her perform at an Alanis Morissette concert and asked her if she was interested in starting a band. Soon, the band Spencer's Rocket of enrollment was formed. It was a local, alternative rock cover band that featured songs by artists like Morissette, Stone Temple Pilots, No Doubt and The Cranberries, and songs written by the band. Spencer's Rocket broke up in Oct. 1998.

About one month later, Torrellas decided to become a solo artist with the encouragement of local band Linus' front man, friend and ex-boyfriend, Chris Pate.

"Chris started encouraging me to record a demo at a studio in Friendswood (Texas) with session musicians and be a solo artist," Torrellas said. "After a little bit of pushing on his part, I met with producer Kevin Bomar and my co-writer on most of my tunes, Chris Howland, also drummer, producer, back-up singer, keyboardist, guitarist, bassist, percussionist and the guy who kept me mentally stable

during most of my long hours at the studio, at South Coast Recorders in Friendswood, Texas, and finally decided to go for it."

"No Hard Feelings, Torrellas' debut CD, was released in Aug. 2001 after two years of work. Torrellas said most of the music on the CD is inspired by her own feelings and by events in her life.

"I'd say lyrically, the album is about self discovery and beating the odds," she said. "I think the listener can tell by the lyrics that I'm trying to get comfortable in my own skin as a flawed and vulnerable individual. Through heartbreaks and disappointments, I've learned a lot more about myself, and I hope people can relate to that."

"Most of the songs on the CD are inspired by true events in my life," Torrellas said. "No Hard Feelings is almost like a journal of my life from 1997 to 2000. It's a way for me to release anger, uncertainty, stress, joy or any emotion I may be feeling."

For example, Torrellas said that the song, "What is it now" was written a few days after her graduation from A&M because she was busy applying for jobs and not hearing from any of the companies. "Only to you," she said, was written after her heart was broken the first time she was involved in a serious relationship. "Brave in the Soul" was written after the 15-year-old daughter of a friend of her mother's committed suicide. The song "Never got to say Goodbye" was written after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse and also is dedicated to a co-worker and friend of hers who passed away on his birthday.

Torrellas said that musically, the album is more eclectic. She said some of the songs are fast-beat, edgy and crunchy sounding while others are tame during the verses and strong in the choruses, while others are more acoustic-based and some are considered ballads.

She said her musical influences include Pat Benatar, Morissette, Joni Mitchell and Aerosmith. She com-

pares herself to "either Pat Benatar or a less-angry Alanis Morissette from her *Jagged Little Pill* days."

Torrellas is scheduled to perform at the Third Floor Cantina at 10:30 p.m. She said she is looking forward to coming back to College Station and to the Third Floor, where she performed frequently with Spencer's Rocket.

"College Station is a great place for live music," she said. "I'm looking forward to going back to the Third Floor after years of not being there. I'm definitely looking forward to it. I am nervous because it's been so long since I've played in College Station, but I'm ready to come back."

Torrellas said her performance at the show depends a lot on what the audience is like.

"I don't sit still very much," she said. "It pretty much depends on the song. At times I could be dancing. Other times I'm jumping around or head banging. It has a lot to do with the song as well as the vibe from the audience."

Audiences can expect a high-energy, fun show with eclectic music and tunes ranging from rock and alternative rock to acoustic and punk, Torrellas said.

"We will be playing songs from *No Hard Feelings* but also add some new songs I've written as well as a few Spencer's Rocket classics."

For more information about Torrellas, visit [rebecca.hispeed.com](http://rebecca.hispeed.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBECCA TORRELLAS

## Three-man band, BIG-time sound

Area band 2welvelead leaves a big impression for a small band

By JANE HOLDEN  
THE BATTALION

Anyone who has heard the high-energy rock-pop trio 2welveLead should be begging the question, "Who are these wonderboys, and where did they come from?" There is no doubt that singer-guitarist Todd Sapio, bassist Millard Hasbrook and drummer Chris Lamb have the talent to be cruising American highways in a plush tour bus, delivering innovative rock sets to throngs of receptive fans. But they aren't. Not yet, anyway.

Instead, 2welveLead is practicing in a downtown Bryan loft during the wee hours of the morning, content with the tantalizing karma between their instruments and a calendar filled with local gigs such as this Friday's benefit concert at the Third Floor Cantina.

"I think that what makes us successful is that we literally play for the sake of playing and nothing else," Lamb said. Indeed, this enthusiastic integrity has prevented the musicians from falling into the "one-gig-wonder" pantheon of other college bands. However, a unique, intense and mature style is also responsible for their success.

Known in local music circuits as one of the best hard rock bands in town, 2welveLead certainly knows how to crank up the amp and get a crowd roaring, but they can also win converts with heartfelt emotion capable of speaking volumes to its audience. Among the band's impressive supply of melodic and frantic tunes is an overflowing handful of radio hooks, wrapped in intense personalism.

"If there's one word that comes to mind when describing our music, it's 'open-minded' because it's not limited to one style," Lamb said. "People are often close-minded to new things and we want to open them up. Music is the most influential thing in the world. If we can set the emotion, we can have an effect."

The synergy of 2welvelead sound is influenced by Sapio's interest in Dishwalla and Stevie Ray Vaughn, Hasbrook's Deftones, The Cure and

Stone Temple Pilots, and Lamb's passion for jazz music and the band Fuel.

While remaining true to their musical inspirations, the band has developed a strong and independent style, evident in their newest song, "Space." "This song really focused on the development of the music, with a more effective blending of hard and soft sounds," Sapio said.

In 2welveLead's new hit, the instruments shift styles and intensity levels effortlessly, setting the canvas for Sapio to sing his lament, "We both know I'm wrong, but that don't mean I'm strong. In some other instance I might have been okay, I walk away..." A success for both its explosiveness and its sensitivity, "Space" is just one example of the incredible power behind this dynamic trio.

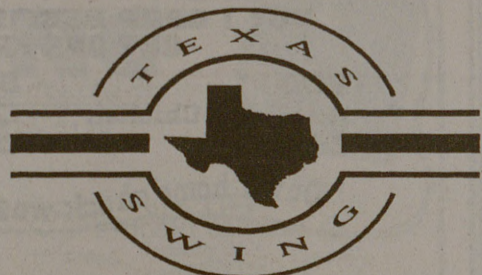
"We have had to rely on our creativity," Hasbrook said. "Not everyone could get three people together and sound like a five piece."

On stage, the members must extend themselves to fill up a sound that other bands need five members to accomplish, but size is only one challenge that these wonderboys have turned into progress. It would seem that their concoction for success has been a prodigious work ethic coupled with a hearty measure of luck.

The stories of setbacks and random acts of fate, extending back to Sapio and Lamb's high school days dreaming of rock 'n' roll stardom, will make an evocative and charming episode of VH1's "Behind the Music" in the future. But for now, this College Station-based trio is here to stay.

"We have been through three bassists and three band names. We kept playing when there were only two of us and we'll keep playing regardless because we love it. I think we would physically get sick if we were away from it for too long," Sapio said.

Wearing their hearts and a healthy dose of artistic enthusiasm on their sleeves, Sapio, Hasbrook and Lamb will perform a benefit concert with local bands Linus and Thread at the Third Floor Cantina Friday night. The show starts at 9 p.m. and the \$5 cover charge will go to the aid of Sept. 11 victims.



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