



Performer Profile

Daniel Brehm – Writing with the Greatest of Ease

On April 7, 1976, Daniel Brehm, a 46-year-old Army veteran from Prescott, Ariz., made a decision that would set the course for the rest of his life. In his early teens at the time, Brehm was studying to get his pilot's license and close to completing the first stage of the program. "I was two hours away from flying solo," he said. Then came the decision that changed it all – he bought his first guitar.

Brehm's brother-in-law taught him a couple of chords and from there he was off and running, spending much of his days practicing guitar. "I'd spend around 16 hours a day practicing and learning on my own," Brehm said. "Three months later, I replaced him in the band he was playing with."

The reasons for learning to play were quite simple for Brehm – to expand his social network. "I started playing guitar to make friends," he recalls. He attributes that musical experience with his ability to write, as well as perform, music. "We moved around a lot and the writing just came naturally," he said. "I will never understand the ease of my songwriting. My mom used to say, 'it's 90 percent showing up, 10 percent paying attention.' I guess I'm compulsive about the 10 percent."

To this day, the writing continues to come naturally for Brehm and the results are quite impressive. "We had two 45s that played on local radio stations and we performed on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy," he said. Although he doesn't perform in public as much these days, he still continues to write and record, and has plans of producing other people and bands. "I have a knack for finding good bands – and I'm really entrepreneurial minded." Brehm already has a company, Power Productions, that supplies DJ and video production services for weddings and special occasions. Within that company is his record label, *Perflexion Records*.

While receiving care at the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott, Brehm saw a flier about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Through the encouragement of his therapist, Paula Moran, he submitted his music and won high honors in the original instrumental category. Amazingly, the song had not even been completed yet. As Brehm explains, "The lyrics were complete but not solid, and the melody wasn't ready for the first round of the competition," he said. Clearly, the judges in the national event had another opinion.

Through all his years of playing in bands and as a solo artist, Daniel Brehm believes that entering the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival was one of the best things he's done professionally. "It gave me a creative outlet to get my music out there so people could hear it," he said. "This is a perfect outlet for creativity."