

Mom puts sentiments into a Mother-Son Wedding Song

By ZEPHYLIA KHOOBLALL

Contributing Writer

Weddings are full of emotion. There is the crying bride, the frantic wedding planner, the nervous groom, and of course, the distressed mothers of both the bride and groom. These soon-to-be in-laws express their emotions in a multitude of ways; some sit and quietly tear up, some sob uncontrollably, and some channel their sorrow into becoming extremely involved in the wedding planning process. Still, there are those that harness their emotion and make something creative out of it.

Lynn Leonti, a 1974 North Royalton High School (or E.E. Root High School) graduate and a homemaker currently residing in Parma, chose the latter. When she found out her son Michael was getting married in June of 2006, she knew she wanted to do something special and personal to show him just how much she cared.

Despite her absence of professional musical training, Leonti has always possessed an innate skill in song writing. As she began to write this particular song and pour her emotions out onto the paper, she knew it would hold a special place at the wedding. It would be the song she and her son would dance to.

The lyrics in "I'll Always be Your Mother" are dedicated to the beginning of her son and daughter-in-law's new life together. Two lines read, "I'll always be your mother, it completes my life; My tears are filled with love, for you and your new wife." Leonti sent three main messages within this song. The song welcomes her son's new bride into the family; it lets her son know she would always be there for him; and it tells her son to always see his new wife as his best friend.

At first, Leonti expected this mother-son wedding song to be a personal gift to her son, a special way to express her love within the family. But then, something changed.

"At the wedding, it touched so many people. If you looked around, it doesn't matter what age they were, they were crying – male and female," Leonti said. She was encouraged by so many people to publish the CD that she decided to put her music on the Internet and eventually release a CD to the public.

Collaborating with Jim McShane, who composed the music to accompany her lyrics, Leonti released her first single in May 2007. In an attempt to branch out and appeal to a broader audience, Leonti opted to also record a country version of "I'll Always be Your Mother," which is also included on the single. She hired two local women to sing the traditional and country versions, as well as a fiddle player to add that country flare to the latter.

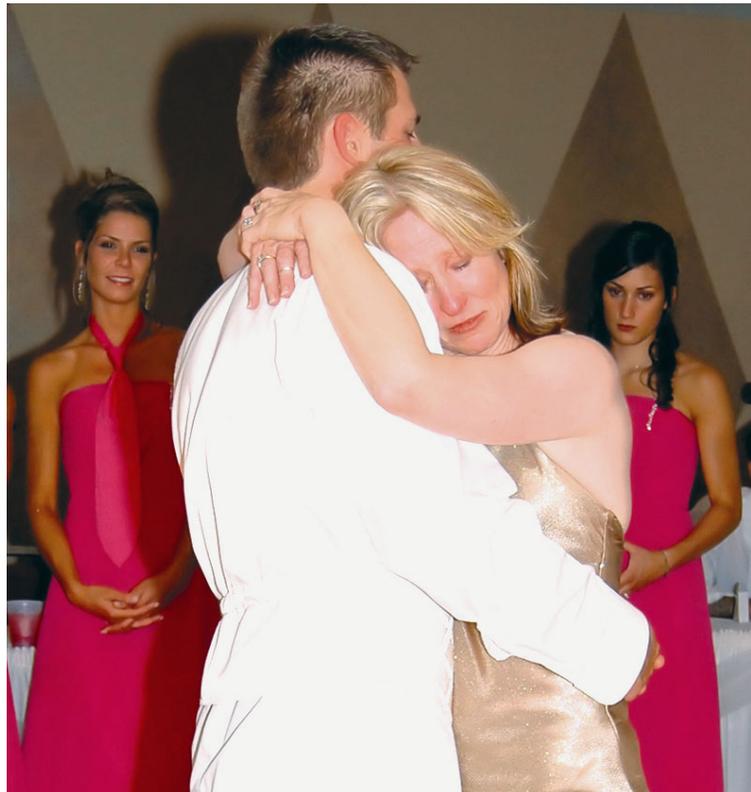
With modest expectations, Leonti only ordered 100 copies of her CD to sell at first. She underestimated herself. Today, Leonti is nearing the 500 mark – not too bad for her first time acting as a professional songwriter. Leonti says she is looking forward to the 2008 wedding season which should be arriving in a couple months and expects to sell another 500.

She will be releasing a father-daughter wedding song to complement her mother-son wedding song hopefully before the 2008 season is in full swing.

"If it wasn't for the Internet, it would be really hard," Leonti said when referring to promoting her music. She takes advantage of the web's far-reaching arm to spread the word about her music utilizing chat rooms and wedding websites, for example.

The feedback from customers has been great. It seems that whenever this song plays at a wedding, there is not a dry eye in the house. To listen to clips of "I'll Always be Your Mother" in both versions, and read its complete lyrics, go to www.shopmysongs.com.

Leonti has been married to her husband Tom since 1975. They have two sons together; Michael, for whom the song was intended, is now father to Leonti's first grandchild, Sommer. Leonti, a proud mother and grandmother, hopes "I'll Always be Your Mother" sends a message of love and devotion to her son and all listeners. Incorporating this song into any wedding is guaranteed to make for a sentimental, memorable moment on the dance floor for mother and son...and soon, for father and daughter as well.



Lynn Leonti, a 1974 NRHS graduate, gave her son a lasting and emotional gift for his 2006 wedding. She wrote him a song, which they danced to at the reception. The song, "I'll Always Be Your Mother," has a traditional and country version.