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Celebrating Neighbors

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 **MusicProfile**
By Karen Wilson

"I'm always homesick for Sacramento and the foothills," Michelle says, "and always feel my home is there."



Michelle Krell

The back roads of Northern California often find their way into Michelle Krell's songs. "I grew up in Rescue," she says, "where the roads were the landmark, since there weren't really many buildings." Krell, now living in Los Angeles, has

grew up on a ranch, helping their dad with surgeries and attending a tiny wooden school house on Deer Valley Road. The American River and its surrounding oak trees and sagebrush were inspiration for poems that would later become songs.

As a girl, she says, "Music was something I always had. I wondered how this was going to play out, where I would end up." Krell graduated from UC Davis and received a teaching credential, but soon realized she wanted to explore

theater and music instead. She headed east where she studied classical and jazz piano, appeared in summer stock theater and worked as assistant to the director on off-Broadway plays in New York City.

Krell returned to California and began a career in San Francisco playing "in every kind of club imaginable." She moved to Los Angeles when she married her husband Larry Malone, who works in 3D computer animation and was on the creative team that produced the first computer generated movie, "Tron", in the early 1980s. Krell's song writing group includes Harriet Schock, whose credentials include "Ain't No Way to Treat a Lady," which became a hit for Helen Reddy. "Finishing the album was a lot of work," she says, and now she is turning to the work of promoting the CD.

It's a long way from the days when just getting to school meant a long walk to the main road for an hour bus ride. "I'm always homesick for Sacramento and the foothills," she says, "and always feel my home is there."



(above)
Robby Ravenwood plays guitar with Michelle Krell vocals and keyboard.

just released her first solo CD, "Concrete Scrapbook". One of her songs is featured in a new independent film, "Boston Girls."

Krell's early life in the Gold Rush country of rural El Dorado County is never far from her mind. Her father was head veterinarian at UC Davis, and she and her sister



Michelle's latest album can be sampled on her Web site.

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