

Saturday  
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# Coastal Scene

The Brunswick News

The Golden Isles entertainment and activities guide for March 15 and beyond

## CS spotlight

### Concert returns singer to her roots

By **CODY TRAWICK**  
The Brunswick News

When your music is described by an Atlanta-based record company as "Fitting somewhere between a tamed version of Tori Amos and Laura Nyro revisited," there's a good chance you're doing something right.

Laura Benjamin, singer-songwriter for LB Collective, the band of that description, keeps it relatively simple when she describes her group's sound.

"I think of it as pop-soul-Americana," said the St. Simons Island native, now based in the state's capital. "It's really a unifying mix of soulful vocals, bluesy sounds, and even a bit of country thrown in."

The group is slated to celebrate its recently released eclectic debut album, "Let it Go," with a 5 p.m. Friday performance at the atrium of the Casino in the Pier Village on St. Simons Island Friday.

Three of Us, a band head-

#### The band

- LB Collective is:
- Laura Benjamin, guitar and vocals.
  - A.J. Holz, bass guitar.
  - Steve Mounce, percussion.
  - Diana Mounce, vocals.
  - Jon Mobley, guitar.

ed by local favorite Bill Townsend, will open for the group.

Concerning live music, Benjamin related that it's not all about what you do in the studio.

"I absolutely adore it," she said of performing live. "It's about being in the moment, a collaborative experience. It's a thrill creating that type of experience (on the spot). We'll also be performing a few new songs that aren't on the CD."

It's not just about the front-woman, either, she concedes.

"Most of us (in the band) go way back," said Benjamin. "We really have great chemistry; we try to



Provided photo

LB Collective will perform at 5 p.m. Friday at the St. Simons Island Casino in a free concert.

open up some solo sections throughout the songs; I've never seen anything wrong with adding a few more bars to a piece than appear on the CD. We all like taking our own solos here and there."

Of the performance overall, however, Benjamin relates that the group be sticking to the structure for the most part.

"While we leave room for improvisation, we are a little more structured than anything else, although we've restructured a few songs even since the CD has come out," she said. "Overall, we're expecting a good crowd Friday. We're really excited to play some of these new songs we've been working on."