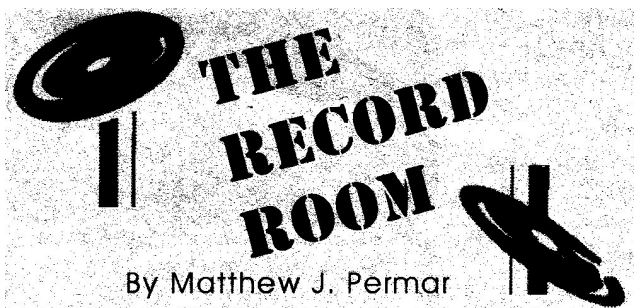




The ISLANDER

Check it out... Matthew Permar is in the **THE RECORD ROOM** with a new music column... See Page 15!

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October 29, 2007

- **LET IT GO**
LB Collective
Self Released

For my first column I decided to go with someone who has a local connection.

Laura Benjamin's (the LB of **LB COLLECTIVE**) mother Judy, the former Judy Baldwin, grew up in Glynn County. After marriage, the Benjamin's lived in Westchester, New York, where Laura grew up.

Her mother maintains a house on St. Simons and splits her time between here and New York. It was through a friend of her mom that Laura contacted me about her CD and her show at Southern Soul barbeque on Mallory St., Saturday, October 20.

The CD, *let it go*, is seven Benjamin-penned tunes about life, love and the questions people face day to day.

Benjamin, a tall, drop-dead gorgeous 29-year old with a degree in History from Yale, has been in Atlanta since 2000 and has been the singer in two Atlanta area bands prior to the LB Collective.

The first was a 7-piece swing band called **The Zoots**, as in suit. After two years with that band, it sort of merged into a variety band, who added pop music to the swing, and called themselves **Peachtree Confidential**.



Laura Benjamin and the LB Collective will host a CD Release party for *let it go* at mid-town Atlanta's Red Light Café on November 11 from 5 to 7.

Photo by Shari Beshers

Benjamin's music is built around two key ingredients – her absolutely gorgeous voice and her intelligent, world wise lyrics.

Benjamin listens to a wide range of singer/songwriters from the Indigo Girls to Coldplay and U2 to the Dixie Chicks.

But her own sound is more Tori Amos meets Laura Nyro. It's a nice, lyrical blend of contemporary adult pop with some jazzy overtones, while also treading some modern folk/Americana ground.

No doubt Laura Benjamin is a serious musician with a bright future, but she also has a clever sense of humor.

My favorite cut on *let it go* is "Goodbye Pluto," the planet not the dog.

"I choose to refuse to accept your new status/ You'll always be a planet to me."

Very good stuff – *let it go* is available at cdbaby.com or her [myspace](http://myspace.com) site which can be reached via lbcollective.com.

Keep on rockin'.....