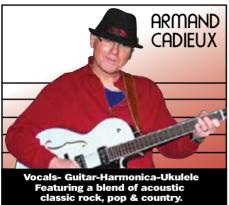
North Coast **Voice**



Tues, 7/9 • 6-9 pm
Campoloa's Italian Bistro • Mentor

Sat, 7/13 • 7-9 pm Buckeye Chocolate Cafe • Chardon

Sat, 7/20 • 7-10 pm Campola's Italian Bistro • Mentor

Sun, 7/21 • 12-4 pm Old Firehouse Winery • GOTL

> Sat, 7/27 • 8-11 pm Rider's Inn Painesville

For bookings: 440-622-3501 Email: justme_arc@yahoo.com



- DJ Every Friday 8-Midnight at Grand River Manor
- Saturday, July 20th 4-8pm Acoustic at the Cove, GOTL
- Friday, July 27th 8:30-11:30pm Oscar Gamble Trio at Wine & Walleye Festival Bridge St, Ashtabula Harbor
- Monday, July 29th 5-9pm Acoustic at Sportsterz, GOTL

Rob Lundi

FACEBOOK.COM/FLYINGPIGENTERTAINEMNT FPE1@yahoo.com

KID MITCHELL & TED ALEXANDER

NOW WE'RE TALKIN

_By Helen Marketti

A chat with the Muse of "My Sharona"

It has been 40 years since the hit song, "My Sharona," hit the airwaves and became an instant hit. The song was made popular by The Knack's front man, Doug Fieger. As it turns out, there is indeed a real Sharona, who was the muse behind the song. Sharona Alperin takes some time to share her thoughts and stories about the iconic song, her relationship with Doug, and her life after the rock star glamour.

"I was working at a clothing store in LA and one of my clients introduced me to her boyfriend, which happened to be Doug Fieger. He invited me to listen to his band and I agreed. Shortly after, he said we were going to be together. I was 17, he was 25. He was in a 9-year relationship and I was in love with my boyfriend, Marty. I told Doug he was being ridiculous. He pursued me for about a year and eventually he broke up with his long-term girlfriend and I broke up with Marty."

By the time she was 19, Sharona was on the road with The Knack. "It was exciting. 'My Sharona' had sold one million copies. It was being played everywhere and now, forty years later, it's still being played. That's me on the cover for the single. I wore the clothes that I always did in those days which was a tank top and jeans."

"I always stayed true to my friendships while I was with Doug. I never acted any better or above anyone. I never wanted anyone to think because my boyfriend was in a famous band that I was entitled. I still stayed true to who I was. I kept my friends included and part of my life. I always felt that was important," she said.

Sharona and Doug were together for four years when she ended their relationship. "I wanted to be my own Sharona instead of someone else's Sharona. We stayed in touch off and on over the years. We remained friends and I spent time with him often before he passed away from cancer in 2010."

Today, Sharona sells high-end real estate in Los Angeles. She covers areas of Hollywood, Malibu, Brentwood, and more. "I



was selling real estate since I was born," she laughs. "Doug and I were always talking about getting a house together. He would ask me to meet with the real estate agent to view the houses while he was on the road or in the studio. Then when he came back from the road, he would ask the brokers if it would be OK for me to show him the houses. The brokers thought I had a knack for selling and actually that's how it all got started."

Sharona with Doug Fieger

when they were dating

Almost on a weekly basis, Sharona is asked if she is *that* Sharona from the song. She also receives mail from fans of The Knack. They send memorabilia that they would like autographed. "I received a package recently where there were post it notes with specific instructions of where I should sign," she laughs. "I am glad after all of these years the song is still popular and it keeps the memory of Doug and the band going. I learned so many life lessons during my time with him and in our friendship that followed. Enjoy your life, be happy, be humble... and stay humble."

www.mysharona.com