

Karla Bonoff – Bio

Karla Bonoff was born on 27th December 1952 in Santa Monica, California and has one sibling, Lisa, a sister who is three-years older. The daughter of radiologist Dr. Chester Paul Bonoff and his wife Shirley Kahane [d. 1991] Karla was raised in West Los Angeles and went on to attend University High School. Jan and Dean and Randy Newman are former pupils. Aged fifteen Karla began writing songs, and performed them in a duo, The Daughters of Chester P, with Lisa. Around the same time she took guitar lessons from Frank Hamilton, formerly of The Weavers. Aged sixteen Karla and Lisa auditioned for David Anderle of Elektra Records - the audition was arranged by a friend, John Densmore, drummer in The Doors. The sisters recorded an eleven-song demo, engineered by Bruce Botnick, but the label decided not to sign them. Lisa eventually became a teacher and currently specialises in history and religion at Los Angeles Valley College.

Karla went on to perform at Monday night hoots at The Troubadour, a local club, and circa 1969 she met Kenny Edwards and Linda Ronstadt of the Stone Poneys. The first incarnation of Bryndle, formed in 1970, featured Karla, Kenny Edwards, Wendy Waldman and Andrew Gold, plus support players Peter Bernstein and Dennis Wood. Produced by Chuck Plotkin the quartet recorded an album for A&M Records but it was never released. One single, produced by Lou Adler, was released and it featured Karla's "Woke Up This Morning." Although the song was a minor hit in Northern California the band eventually broke up.

Following the demise of Bryndle, Wendy Waldman was signed by Warner Bros. and Karla contributed backing vocals on the albums **"Love Has Got Me"** [1973], **"Gypsy Symphony"** [1974], **"Wendy Waldman"** [1975] and **"The Main Refrain"** [1976]. Bonoff also sang on the Linda Ronstadt albums **"Prisoner In Disguise"** [1975], **"Hasten Down The Wind"** [1976] – a collection that included Bonoff compositions "Someone To Lay Beside Me," "If He's Ever Near" and "Lose Again" - and **"Simple Dreams"** [1977]. Signing with CBS Records, Karla went on to cut three albums for the imprint, all of which were produced by Kenny Edwards. Her debut **"Karla Bonoff"** [# 52 U.S., 1977] featured guest appearances by Gold, Waldman, Ronstadt, J.D. Souther and Glenn Frey. The single "I Can't Hold On" reached # 76 U.S. Pop chart during 1978. Taken from **"Karla Bonoff,"** the song "Home" was also covered by Bonnie Raitt on **"Sweet Forgiveness"** [1977].

Karla's sophomore album **"Restless Nights"** [# 31 U.S., 1979] featured guest appearances by Jackie DeShannon, and her final CBS release was titled **"Wild Heart Of The Young"** [# 49 U.S., 1982]. Bonoff charted with a few more singles - from her sophomore album, "Baby Don't Go" reached # 69 in 1980, while, from her third solo album "Personally" [penned by Aussie Paul Kelly] reached # 19 and "Please Be The One" reached # 63 during 1982. Between the late 1970's/mid 1980's, as a backing vocalist, Bonoff sang on albums by Warren Zevon **"Excitable Boy"** [1978], Christopher Cross **"Another Page"** [1983] and Charlie Daniels Band **"Me And The Boys"** [1985]. In 1984 Karla performed "Somebody's Eyes" [penned by Tom Snow/Dean Pitchford] on the soundtrack album of the hit movie **"Footloose."** With J.D. Souther she wrote "Step By Step," Souther performed the song on the soundtrack album to **"About Last Night"** [1986].

"New World" [1988] was produced by Mark Goldenberg [The Cretones] and originally released by Gold Castle Records. The album was reissued in 1992 by JVC, in 1995 by Music Masters and more recently by Valley Entertainment. Karla's "All My Life" was covered by Linda Ronstadt on **"Cry Like A Rainstorm, Howl Like The Wind"** [1989]. When issued as a single it peaked at # 11 on U.S. Pop chart, and Ronstadt and co-vocalist Aaron Neville's rendition went on to score a Grammy for Best Pop Vocal by a Duo or Group. Ronstadt's album also included Karla's "Goodbye My Friend" and "Trouble Again."

On her sophomore solo album of the same name, country artist Wynonna Judd cut Bonoff's "Tell Me Why" [the song appeared on Karla's **"New World"**] and the song became a # 1 U.S. Country hit single during 1993. Karla's performed "Standing Right Next To Me," co-written with Waldman, on the soundtrack to the rodeo themed movie **"8 Seconds"** [1994]. The latter collection also featured her duet with Vince Gill on Phil Everly's "When Will I Be Loved." During the 1990's Karla continued to work as a backing vocalist on albums by other artists, including Kathy Mattea **"Walking Away A Winner"** [1993], Reba McEntire **"Starting Over"** [1995] and Charlie Daniels Band **"Roots Remain"** [1996]. Karla performed "You Believed In Me," co-written with Wendy, as a duet with the Dirt Band on the compilation **"One Voice"** [1996]. The album was recorded to celebrate the 1996 Atlanta, Georgia Olympics.

Bryndle was reformed in 1991 and after jointly co-writing the songs, the quartet recorded a self-titled album that they co-produced with Josh Leo. **“Bryndle”** was released by Music Masters Inc. during 1995. Andrew Gold departed the quartet the following year. Catastrophe struck when the masters for **“Bryndle 2”** were lost in a computer crash. In 1997 with a lull in Bryndle’s performing schedule, Karla began performing as a solo act once again. Since the dawn of the new millennium Bryndle, the trio, self-released **“House Of Silence”** and **“Live At Russ And Julie’s.”** Karla Bonoff’s **“Live”** was a self-release that included many of her hits, and on the 2CD recording she was supported by Kenny Edwards [guitar, bass, mandolin, cello, backing vocals], Nina Gerber [guitar] and Scott Babcock [drums, backing vocals]. Featuring twenty-one tracks the collection included two new songs “Baja Oklahoma” and “What About Joanne” [co-written with Mark Goldenberg].

Discography :

Solo - **“Karla Bonoff”** [1977] ; **“Restless Nights”** [1979] ; **“Wild Heart Of The Young”** [1982] ; **“New World”** [1988] ; **“All My Life: The Best Of Karla Bonoff”** [1999] ; **“Karla Bonoff Live”** [2007] :
with Bryndle - **“Bryndle”** [1995] ; **“House Of Silence”** [2001] ; **“Live At Russ And Julie’s”** [2003] :

Arthur Wood

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