



STILL ROCKING

B-52s bombshell finds happiness as a solo artist, hotelier.

by Paula Felps

B-52s singer Kate Pierson famously encouraged people to “Roam” on the band’s 1989 hit single. Now, the powerhouse vocalist is also giving us a place to roam to.

As the owner of two award-winning hotels, Kate has found a new way to share her inimitable brand of style and whimsical humor without missing a beat musically.

“I never thought of owning a hotel, but then I saw this property for sale in the Catskills, and it was just magical,” she says. “I thought, ‘This would be fun, I’ve collected all this mid-century memorabilia, so I can decorate the rooms with different themes.’”

The idea quickly evolved into a business and, with help from her partner, Monica Coleman, it became Kate’s Lazy Meadow, a collection of rustic cabins on 9 acres near Woodstock, New York. Kate filled the rooms with the many tchotchkes she picked up on shopping sprees during her years on tour, but she also called on some of her artist and designer friends to help bring the 1950s-era cabins to life.

“It has that feeling of an old roadside hotel—we kept the old, knotty pine. We have an authentic turquoise kitchen, and another one is bright pink; it’s very colorful,” she says. “I’m always fine-tuning things and swapping out the decorations. I’m very proud of our art collection.”

Artwork includes contributions from local Woodstock artists as well as vintage treasures like macramé owls and velvet

paintings. The hotel’s unique, kitschy-but-comfy vibe has not been lost on either guests or critics.

Travel Channel calls Kate’s Lazy Meadow “A cabin on the outside and a B-52s video on the inside,” and it’s been named one of the World’s Top 100 Hotels by such venerable publications as *Travel + Leisure* and *The Sunday Times* in London. While Kate is clearly thrilled

with the kudos, that was never her end game.

“The goal was not to make money, I just thought it would be a fun place to decorate. I wanted to make it a Shangri-La vision of where people would want to stay.”



Travel Channel has called Kate’s Lazy Meadow in upstate New York “a cabin on the outside and a B-52s video on the inside.” Below, Kate and her partner, Monica Coleman, run both Kate’s Lazy Meadow and Kate’s Lazy Desert.



Happiness as a State of Being

That's been the overriding theme in Kate's life: artistically expressing her inner joy, whether it's by creating music or decorating hotels. B-52s bandmate Cindy Wilson was fond of telling Kate that she "sees the glass as half-full even when it's empty," and Kate admits that her happiness comes easily, so she naturally wants to share it.

"We started the B-52s just to amuse ourselves," she says of the enduring party band. "And it turned out to be something that really made people happy. I think a part of our success was just because we exude joy."

While some people struggle with happiness, Kate says that is her normal state of being.

"I get that from my father; he had such a positive attitude. Even after he had a stroke he was in a good mood and kept a positive outlook. That's just how I am."

That kind of upbeat outlook was captured in the music of the B-52s, with classics like "Rock Lobster" and "Love Shack," and later in songs like "Good Stuff" and "Funplex."

"The great legacy of the B-52s was that you could express all this inner joy," she says.

In March, Kate released her first solo album, *Guitars and Microphones*. Many of the songs were co-written by Australian singer and songwriter Sia, a longtime friend, and Kate says she was relieved that the album has been so well received.



ABOVE: Colorful, funky interiors meet traditional Catskills cabins at Kate's Lazy Meadow. **RIGHT:** Some unexpected flourishes - such as colorful accents and a large population of garden gnomes on the property - offer a hint that this is no ordinary getaway. **BELOW:** In addition to running her two hotels, Kate Pierson released her first solo album, *Guitars and Microphones*, in March.



"It's been amazing; the reviews have been great," she says. "Even though it's not as much a party album as the B-52s, it was a very joyful process to make the album, and that makes it glow."

While working on that album in late 2012, Kate and Monica opened their second hotel, Kate's Lazy Desert, in Landers, California, near the Joshua Tree National Park. Instead of cabins, this experience consists of a half-dozen Airstream trailers that, like the cabins at Kate's Lazy Meadow, each have their own theme.

Restored to "wacky perfection" by Phillip Maberry and Scott Walker, the artist duo whose home was featured in the "Love Shack" video, these aren't your traditional Airstreams. With names like "Lava," "Tiki" and "Kate's Hairstream," they sport bright colors, unique decor and exude fun and energy.

But the Lazy Desert also is a spiritual oasis of sorts, one where Kate says guests

can truly escape for a "mystic" desert experience.

"It really is like being on another planet; it's dark, it's quiet—it's a great place to gaze at the stars and meditate. It really takes you away for a while."

And for Kate, that's a big part of nourishing happiness. For all the trappings of rock 'n' roll success that she's enjoyed, it's being in nature that keeps her focused and creative.

"Being grounded in nature, and being someplace with lots of art and nature is really important to us," she says, adding that she and Monica enjoy spending time outside with their two dogs, Athena and Zeus, as well as connecting with the earth through gardening.

"And then being able to be creative and do what you love every day, that really drives our happiness. We value that." 