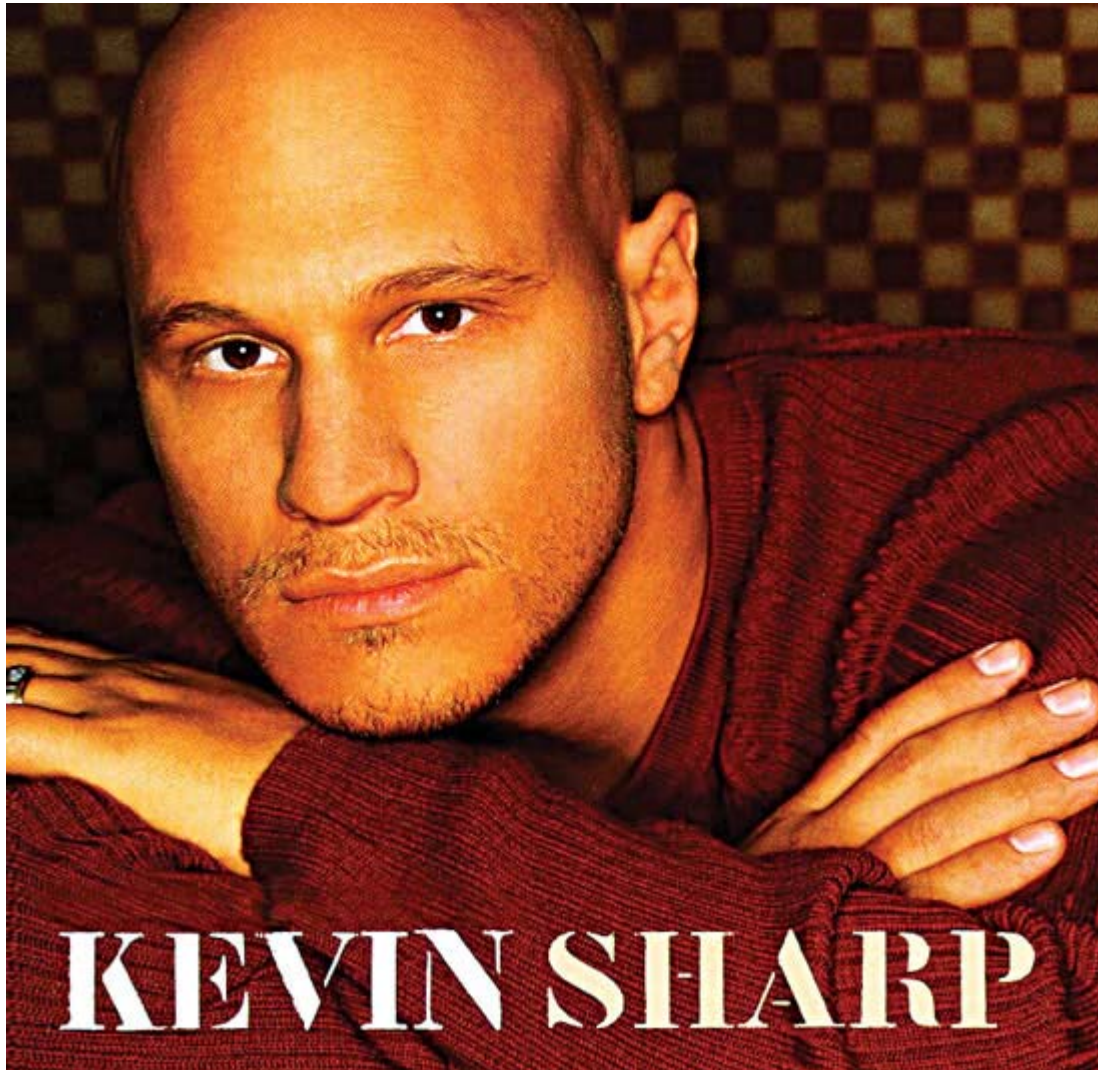


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## Sharp on music and hope

by Wendy Butler, 7/12/2007

Kevin Sharp said he doesn't underestimate music's power.

"The things that treated my heart, my spirit and my mind were the things that saved my life," he said. "Music was one of those things, and my family."

What Sharp was referring to during a Thursday phone interview from his home in Sacramento was his having survived a rare form of bone cancer.

His Christianity played a role, as well, he said.

"Knowing that we're not alone in the world is a pretty important thing," Sharp said.

knowing that we're not alone in the world is a pretty important thing," Sharp said.

But, he doesn't discount what he considers the medical field's importance.

The singer-songwriter said he credits the American Cancer Society with conducting more research than any other organization on cancer.

"I've been to, I don't know, 100 different relays around the country, the first one when I lived here and I was a patient," he said. "It's been a long relationship."

That bond will be demonstrated further tonight at Eureka's Arkley Center for the Performing Arts. Sharp will perform an acoustic concert at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.) All proceeds will go to Relay For Life.

Sharp's band comprises Brad McFarland on guitar, Donny Mott on bass guitar and Sharp on vocals.

Tickets are \$25/balcony or \$35/orchestra or loge seating.

Security National Servicing's Relay For Life Team No. 35 will present the concert. Also included is a Dutch auction.

Team No. 35 captains Renee Cloney and Nanc Frazel announced there will be more than 20 auction items from local merchants available.

The team has been fundraising throughout the year. Last year it was recognized as a top national team in having raised \$51,000 for Relay For Life.

Sharp said his life includes a demonstrable number of performances and speaking engagements that are cancer benefits or other events related to the condition. But, he said, he isn't unhappy with the direction his life has gone.

"I knew I was going to perform; I planned on performing," he said. "I definitely didn't plan on getting sick, but I wouldn't change a thing that's happened in my life."

Sharp was born in Redding. His family then moved to Weiser, Idaho, before settling in Sacramento.

He said he thinks music was something he was "born with."

Everyone in his family plays an instrument and Sharp's was piano. They performed at community gatherings and at church.

He doesn't play piano any longer.

"I lost most of the feeling in my hands through a particular drug that is used in chemotherapy," Sharp said. "I quit and leave it up to people with good hands."

He sings and writes songs.

His music is lauded on country charts. He has received numerous award nominations, including "New Touring Artist of the Year" from the Country Music Association/SRO. He garnered an award for the Country Music Television's "Rising Male Video Star of the Year" and was given "Sexiest Man" by Sacramento's News and Review.

His story has appeared in a number of media outlets, including television's "Good Morning America" and national publication USA Today.

Sharp, 36, said he's not sure how long he felt symptoms before he was eventually diagnosed at age 18 with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, in his left femur. The cancer had also spread to his lungs.

A senior in high school, Sharp had been active in playing music and in athletics.

Sharp said he was not so much afraid following the diagnosis as he was "frustrated to think about the treatments and the pain that came along with it."

He developed a relationship with the Make-A-Wish Foundation after he was told his chance of survival was slim. They granted his wish to meet producer/performer David Foster and the two developed a friendship.

Sharp went into remission in 1990.

When Sharp speaks to groups about what he's faced, he said, he reminds them not to give up if they face comparable challenges.

"You know this life is never easy and I assure them that it's worth it, and hope is a priceless gift that we're given," he said.

(The Eureka Reporter is a member of the Security National family of entities owned by Rob and Cherie Arkley).

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