

MUSIC

Vanessa Brings Heroes And Thieves To Long Island

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"It's like coming home," Vanessa Carlton said to *The Long Islander* of performing at The Nutty Irishman in Farmingdale on August 29. "I don't play places like Madison Square Garden or Giants Stadium on a regular basis, but I think some of my best shows are in smaller towns. I get some of the most soulful moments on stage. So they're always special to me because I'm from a small town."

The Grammy nominated singer/songwriter/pianist treated many fans of local radio station WMJC 94.3 from across

Huntington, Farmingdale, Northport, and other Long Island music hot spots to a free concert featuring old hits, as well as new songs from *Heroes and Thieves*, her third album, set to hit stores in October.

The crowd at The Nutty Irishman was comprised of V.I.P. winners and listeners of 94.3 WMJC, and tickets were not for sale.

"That's why we call it a listener appreciation free concert. It's free to get in, but you have to listen to the radio station," said Jon Daniels, Program Director and Afternoon Host of the station. "We're happy to reward our listeners for their loyalty, and to turn around and to do something like this with a

major recording artist in such an intimate setting is all a part of the unique experience of living on Long Island and listening to WMJC."

Carlton, who exploded onto the scene in 2002 with her debut *Be Not Nobody* and hit singles "A Thousand Miles" and "Ordinary Day," interacted with the packed house, and felt really positive about the emotional reaction she received after playing songs from *Heroes and Thieves*.

"I just turned 27, and I think it's really a coming-of-age thing where I'm trying to carve a life out for myself beyond my occupations, or where I want to live, or kind of those fundamentals," she said of the writing process. "Now it's kind of, 'What kind of person do I want to be? What kind of characters do I want in my life?' The song 'Heroes and Thieves' was about this idea of sorting out the heroes from the thieves. The entire album is a very storybook style. It's not about growing up, because I grew up a couple of years ago. It's really more about carving out the character of what kind of woman I want to be."

Carlton can very much relate to the many aspiring singers and performers in the Huntington community.

"I used to feel this pressure from my family and my teachers to be the best, and I had this kind of Type A, kind of anxious personality when I was young. So I always had this very fixed view of what I was going to do, and what I was going to be, and how things were going to go. Life kind of smacks you in the face. It tells you, 'No, Vanessa, you have absolutely no control!'" She states that many young artists feel pressure, and that those in Huntington are lucky to have so many performing arts outlets around them.

"That's what the album is about, finding the joy, and finding the fairy tale in



Vanessa Carlton performed before a crowd at the Nutty Irishman in Farmingdale, pulling from her small town roots.

the flaws, and that's life. I'm certainly still working this out because I'm quite young, but I feel like you can decide at any moment to just be at peace with yourself if you want to. I still work at it all the time, I haven't necessarily gotten it yet, but I do know that it's possible."