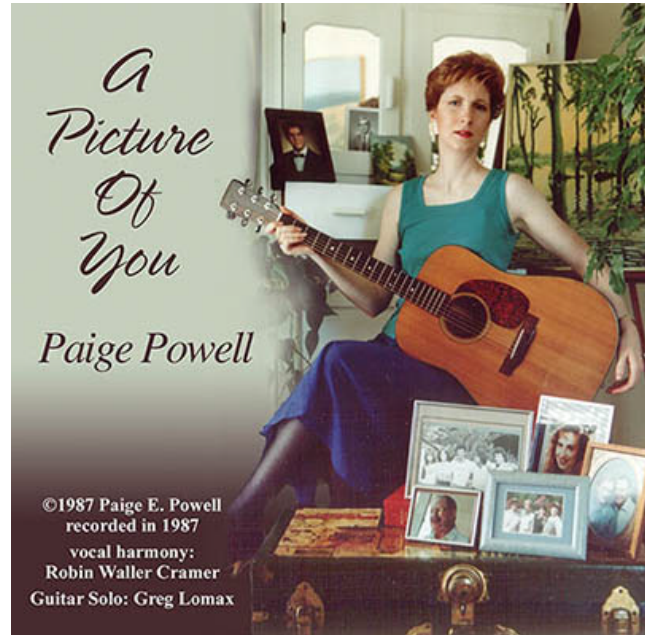


Paige Powell Music Blog for November 13, 2020:

The Story Behind the Song, "A Picture of You"

Long ago, before the digital camera was developed, our **photographs** had to be developed! We had to make sure the film was not exposed to light when we loaded it into the camera and we only had 36, or sometimes, 24 photographs on that roll. When we finished taking pictures, we had to carefully roll the film back into the canister, take it to the drug store, and **wait for a week** before we could see the photographs we had taken! No wonder **old photographs are really precious!** In a fire or flood, we save the people, pets, and photo albums when there's not much time to get them out of the path of destruction.



After graduating from college, I worked at a top-notch photography lab. Once, a customer asked us to enlarge a photo of an elderly member of her family who had passed away, and all she had was a group photo of the last family gathering. It was impossible to make a decent portrait from such a small film negative or print. I thought it was sad that **they didn't have a picture of her**, just her. Perhaps she asked not to be photographed. Some people say, "No, don't take my picture" from a sense of humility. **But to do so robs the person who loves them of a treasured image of their face.**

This was part of the inspiration of my song, "*A Picture Of You*" and the other part was because I fell in love with a man, who I loved so much that I wanted a photograph of him. One night, I dreamed I tried to take a picture of him but my camera and film were not cooperating, just like many of our dreams that contain frustration and lost things. You can read the lyrics on the song's page and see how I tell you, the listener, about my dream, about longing to have a photograph of someone I love, and the hope that "*somehow love will never disappear*". The melody and picking style of the guitar was inspired by the very popular song, "*Landslide*" written by **Stevie Nicks** and recorded by **Fleetwood Mac**.

If you're curious about the photo above, yes, I was much younger then, in 1987. I included photos of my family members in the foreground. I know it's very small, but the photo of the man with the mustache and glasses is **my stepfather, Arthur ("Rink") Barclay**. So with the holidays coming up, be sure to take photos if you have any kind of super-safe gathering (maybe everyone has self-quarantined for 14 days). And if you must spend the holidays alone, set up a Zoom, Skype, FaceTime appointment with them, or at least a phone call. If you hesitate to bother them, please be encouraged that they may LOVE it when you call!