

Dr. Gil and Judy Snider

Passionate duo turn their creative energy into songs

By WENDELL WARD

Lyricists say that writing a great song is about being honest – digging deep to find the truth that listeners can relate to and recognize as the emotional real deal. If a songwriter is lucky enough to have a writing partner who is both open and receptive – two hearts and minds working together for the greater creative good, tossing out the raw edges of lines and verses – the end result might end up a hit. Just ask Lennon and McCartney, Jagger and Richards, Johnny and June Carter Cash – or Dr. Gil Snider and his wife, Judy.

Gil and Judy live life to the fullest. Both have spent their professional lives helping others through challenging times: he as a practicing neurologist, she as a social worker (now retired), and both regularly and eagerly dive headfirst into charitable causes that benefit our community. Add the fact that they've raised two sons, Jon and Nick—both with successful careers in their own right—and one might be tempted to say: “What an amazing life!”

But for Gil and Judy, the quest to wring the most from the day never ends, and the fun has just begun. There is an entire other facet to this humble yet talented couple, who live surprising double lives as creative writers.

Gil has already published one novel to positive reviews: *Brain Warp*, a fast-paced medical thriller, hailed by Kirkus Reviews as “an enjoyable mix of suspense and neuroscience,” and he’s hard at work on a second. Judy, meanwhile, writes children’s books, and is the author of the heartwarming and well-received *Goldy’s Baby Socks*, as well as the award winning *I Love You, Be Careful*, which she co-wrote with her sister.

In recent years, this passionate duo have turned their creative imaginations, prodigious energy, and quiet determination toward songwriting, working as a team to compose lyrics that touch hearts and minds while telling vivid stories about characters struggling against personal conflict. While their songs lean toward a country vibe, they aren’t just about lovers, liars, loners, and losers, and they

don’t require a banjo to come to life. These songs could be performed by country legends and pop divas alike.

While the pair have had a lifelong passion for music of all genres, their songwriting career began providentially in 2013, while they were on vacation. Taking a bus tour with stops cued for famous music sites of the south, including Graceland, The Grand Ole Opry, and The Country Music Hall of Fame, Gil and Judy rediscovered the glory of country music, its songs filled with that uniquely American kind of pain, and they found themselves inspired.

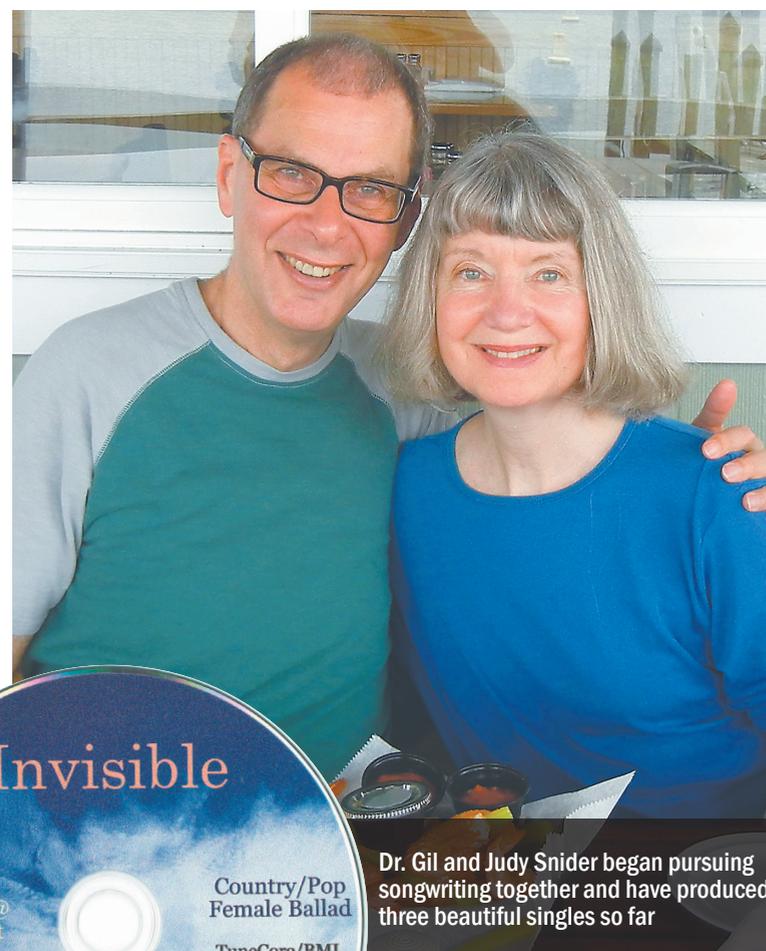
Deep in the south, flipping through an issue of *American Songwriter Magazine* before boarding their bus to Memphis, Gil and Judy noticed an ad for a songwriting contest. As writers, they thought it might be a kick to

give it a shot. Long into the night they banded to and fro poetically, and by the time the sun had risen, they’d written their first song: “If I Call A Name At Night,” a wrenching ballad about coping with the loss of a loved one.

When months later they serendipitously met country record producer Billy Rae Stewart, they told him about their love of country, and showed him their song.

Billy Rae had a long history with country music. In fact, it was Billy Rae’s father, Redd Stewart, who had co-written the multimillion seller “Tennessee Waltz.” Billy Rae was so impressed with the lyrics, and with the passion of Gil and Judy, that he decided to collaborate professionally with them on their tune. Billy Rae produced, recorded, and released the track, while the trio hoped it might

Invisible and *Words I Just Can't Say*: both songs reveal an honest connection to their own vulnerabilities, which Gil and Judy share when they write together, as well as their talent for communicating these feelings to an audience.



Dr. Gil and Judy Snider began pursuing songwriting together and have produced three beautiful singles so far

get heard by other record producers and artists, and end up as a hit on the radio, or on film, or on a television show or commercial.

Now with one successful recording under their belt, Gil and Judy set about composing more lyrics, and ended up with two more songs, “The Words I Just Can’t Say,” about a man struggling with his inability to say ‘I love you;’ and “Invisible,” a stirring ballad about a woman who feels unseen and neglected by the one she loves. Both songs reveal an honest connection to their own vulnerabilities, which Gil and Judy share when they write together, as well as their talent for communicating these feelings to an audience.

Dr. Gil admits that Judy is the go-getter when it comes to understanding and navigating the music business, and with her second set of lyrics in hand she started making calls to Nashville. Reaching out to music producer Justin Morgan of Pearl Snap Studios, Judy initiated her plans to garner demo recordings of their two new songs. With Gil and Judy’s input on style and tempo, Justin found the perfect vocal talent for each track, and mixed and arranged the music for both recordings. The end result was two beautifully rendered compositions, ready for a grammy-winning singer to sit up, listen, take to heart, and make their own.

For now, Gil and Judy would love to hear their songs performed live, and are on the lookout for local singers, as well as some of that fine talent in Music City itself. They’ve even imagined it as part of a film or television soundtrack, or as background music on the hit TV show: *Nashville*.

To hear the professionally produced versions of Judy and Gil’s songs go to:

www.judysnider.com | www.gilsnider.com