

A lot of local flavor on Howie Newman's new CD

The new CD by former Malden resident Howie Newman has a decidedly local flavor. On three of the songs he is backed by his children, Keith and Jen, who both graduated from Malden High School (MHS). Keith (Class of 2010) plays flute on one track and sings backup vocals on two others. Jen (Class of 2005) provides backup vocals on two songs. You might have seen Keith and Jen perform with their father at the Malden Summer Concert Series from 2012-14.

In addition, Malden resident Tim Ray lends some dazzling piano work on three songs. Ray, a longtime pianist for Lyle Lovett, has also performed with Aretha Franklin and Bonnie Raitt.

The album, "When You're Happy," explores the vari-



Singer-songwriter Howie Newman, a former Malden resident, in the studio.

ous facets of everyday life – marriage, parallel parking, old cars, parenthood and money – with a mostly whimsical twist. It's equal

parts country-rock, jazz, pop, swing, blues and Americana, with tight arrangements and pleasing vocal harmonies. Local residents can borrow the CD at the Malden Public Library.

"I'm really happy with the way the album turned out," said Newman (www.howienewman.com), who now lives in Melrose. "Having my kids be a major part of it makes it extra special. They both live far away and we don't get to play together that much anymore."

Keith lives in Los Angeles and Jen is in Boulder, Colo. Because of their work schedules, the only way they could make the recording session was by taking red-eye flights on the same day.

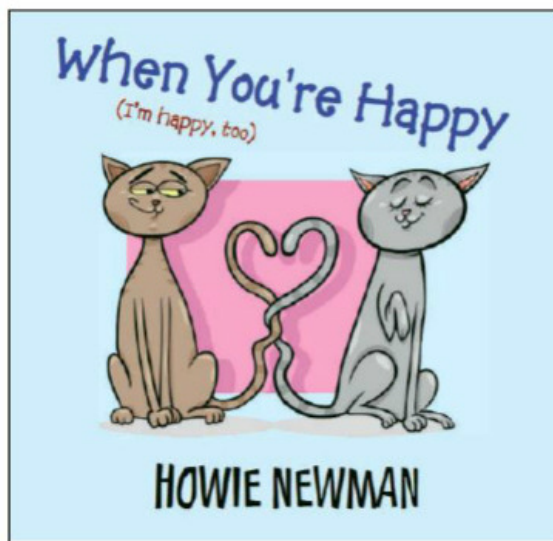
"They rested up a few hours, went to the studio and really knocked it out of the park," said Howie. "It was a lot of fun to watch them do their thing."

Ray's work was also quite impressive. "Tim is a fantastic piano player and was a pleasure to work with," Howie said. "He did three distinctly different songs – swing, country-rock and blues – and shined on all of them."

Jen and Keith were active in MHS music and drama programs. In addition to playing clarinet in the marching band and MHS orchestra, Jen was a member of the chorus. Keith played flute and piccolo in the marching band and MHS orchestra. Both were drum majors during their senior years.

Howie's song, "Our Kids Aren't Kids Anymore" describes the magical journey of watching his children grow up.

"I really like my dad's music and was happy to be a



Howie Newman's new album explores the various facets of everyday life with a mostly whimsical twist.

part of the album," said Jen. "Someday, when I have kids, I'll be able to show them I was on a CD that was actually played on the radio."

Keith, who does improv and sketch comedy part-time in Los Angeles, appreciates the humor. "All the

songs are great but I especially like the funny ones," he said. "They're all about real life, too, so it's easy to relate to them."

For additional information, including music samples, see www.howienewman.com/happy.



Singer-songwriter Howie Newman (center), flanked by his son, Keith, and daughter, Jen, both of whom attended Malden High School.