

For Immediate Release

**Stephanie Richards, Independent Artist, Hits the Charts
With No Help From Major Labels**

Los Angeles, CA, September 15, 2003 - Only a handful of songs of the hundreds of thousands that are recorded ever year make the charts. Even rarer are truly independent artists, such as Stephanie Richards, who has overcome many obstacles, to do the impossible, by not only entering the R&R (Radio and Records) CHR/Pop Top 50 Indicator Chart at #47 with her first single "Get Used To It", but moving up the following week to #44. "Get Used To It" is off her self-titled debut album available at www.stephanierichards.com

"It's an uphill battle" Stephanie says, "the majors [labels] are releasing thousands of records a month, all with hundreds of thousands dollars behind them. It can be pretty scary when you think about it - which is something I try not to do!"

Stephanie has beaten the odds before. While first pursuing her music career in New York City, Stephanie developed vocal nodes (debilitating polyps that form on the vocal chords) attributed to a complication from an allergy. "I thought I wasn't going to be able to sing again, which I had been doing my whole life, it was devastating." She shifted gears and started working toward an acting and modeling career, landing roles on commercials, off-Broadway, and appearing in small TV roles. She finally made the decision to have a risky surgery to repair her vocal chords. "It was frightening - my whole life was in the hands of a doctor -who did a wonderful job- though I had to go in twice!" After two years of vocal coaching and rehab Stephanie was able to pursue music again and moved to Nashville at the encouragement of Scott Barnes, manager of the late Nancy LaMott, where she has had the opportunity to write with many up-and-coming songwriters, as well as blues legend, Gary Nicholson. She forged a writing partnership with Los Angeles-based composer/songwriter/producer Brian Arbuckle, after he hired Stephanie as a jingle singer. Some 40 songs and a year and a half later, they headed into the studio to put their artistic vision to tape. The result is an eleven-song collection of lyric- and melody-driven pop/rock, showcasing some of LA's best musicians and Ms. Richards' impressive, evocative vocals.

For more information or to hear songs from the Stephanie Richards CD, go to www.stephanierichards.com

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